



ORCHARD
— Community Trust —



Geography Intent Statement

Last Reviewed – October 2026
Review date – October 2027

At St. Mark's, our geography curriculum aims to ignite curiosity, wonder, and a lifelong love of learning about the world and its people. Rooted in the Oak National Academy's structured and knowledge-rich planning, our geography curriculum provides clear progression and ensures that every child — regardless of background or starting point — can become a confident, informed geographer.

We recognise that many of our pupils have limited opportunities to travel or experience the wider world beyond our local community. Therefore, our curriculum intentionally broadens horizons and builds cultural capital, enabling pupils to develop a sense of identity, belonging, and global citizenship. Through a carefully sequenced journey from the familiar local area to contrasting regions across the United Kingdom, Europe, and the wider world, pupils build a deep understanding of place, space, and environment.

Our Intent

Through our geography curriculum, we intend that all pupils will:

- Develop a secure knowledge of the location, characteristics, and key features of a range of places across the world.
- Understand the physical and human processes that shape the Earth.
- Use geographical skills such as map reading, fieldwork, data interpretation, and enquiry-based investigation.
- Develop respect and empathy for people, cultures, and environments different from their own.
- Recognise how their actions and decisions can contribute to a more sustainable future.

Cultural Capital

Our geography curriculum is a key driver for building cultural capital, especially for pupils who may have limited life experiences. We provide:

- Opportunities for local fieldwork, helping children to see their own community as part of a wider world.
- Virtual and real-world experiences, such as exploring world landmarks, weather patterns, and global cultures through technology, visitors, and themed days.
- Connections to current global issues, including climate change, migration, and sustainability, helping pupils understand their role in a modern, interconnected world.

Through these experiences, children gain the essential knowledge, vocabulary, and awareness needed to thrive both academically and socially, preparing them for life beyond school.

SMSC Links

Our geography curriculum actively promotes pupils' **Spiritual, Moral, Social, and Cultural (SMSC)** development:

- **Spiritual** - Encouraging awe and wonder at the beauty and diversity of the world, reflecting on humanity's relationship with the environment.
- **Moral** - Considering ethical issues such as fair trade, resource use, and environmental responsibility; developing a sense of stewardship for the planet.
- **Social** - Working collaboratively during investigations and fieldwork; learning how communities adapt and work together around the world.
- **Cultural** - Exploring how people live in different parts of the world, valuing diversity and celebrating different ways of life and traditions.

Implementation Through Oak National Academy

Using the Oak National Academy's geography units as a starting point ensures consistency, coherence, and progression across year groups. Lessons build systematically on prior learning, reinforcing key knowledge and geographical skills. Each unit connects to the National Curriculum objectives, while also allowing flexibility for teachers to enrich learning through local case studies and hands-on enquiry.

Impact

By the time pupils leave St. Mark's, they will:

- Have a well-developed sense of place and global awareness.
- Possess the vocabulary and confidence to discuss geographical ideas and issues.
- Be empathetic, informed citizens who respect the planet and the people who share it.

Geography in our EYFS

In the Early Years at St. Mark's, we nurture children's natural curiosity about the world around them through the 'Understanding the World' area of learning. Children explore their local environment, notice features of different places, and begin to understand how people, places, and nature are connected.

Through hands-on exploration, stories, and visits, we build cultural capital by introducing children to a range of experiences beyond their immediate community. Our geography teaching promotes SMSC development by inspiring awe and wonder, encouraging care for the environment, and celebrating diversity in people and places.

By the end of EYFS, children have developed a sense of place, curiosity, and respect for the world — providing a strong foundation for geography learning in Key Stage 1 and beyond.

Supporting SEND Pupils in Geography

At St. Mark's, we believe geography should be accessible, engaging, and meaningful for every learner. Our geography curriculum is designed to inspire curiosity and understanding of the world for all pupils, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

We use a multisensory and inclusive approach — combining visual, practical, and hands-on learning — so that all pupils can experience success. Lessons are adapted and scaffolded to meet individual needs, with resources such as visual prompts, simplified maps, vocabulary support, and digital tools to aid understanding. Fieldwork and enquiry activities are designed to be fully accessible, giving every child the opportunity to explore and experience the world around them.

Teachers work closely with support staff and families to ensure that learning builds on each child's strengths. Progress is celebrated in a variety of ways, including oral responses, drawings, photos, and practical outcomes.

Through inclusive teaching, adapted resources, and a focus on building confidence and curiosity, we ensure that every child — regardless of need — can develop as a geographer and a valued global citizen.

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