



Geography SMSC Statement

Life in all its Fullness John 10:10

At Halam C of E Primary School, our *Geography* curriculum—developed through the **Learning Challenge Curriculum**—inspires children to explore the world around them with curiosity, responsibility and awe. Rooted in our Christian vision and Halam 'APPLE' values, *Geography* encourages pupils to develop a deep respect for the Earth and its diverse communities. Through local fieldwork, global studies, and enquiry-based learning, children become informed, compassionate citizens who understand how human actions affect the planet and who are equipped to make positive contributions to its future. *Geography* at Halam fosters not only knowledge of places, people and environments, but also spiritual reflection, moral awareness, social responsibility and cultural appreciation.

Spiritual development

Geography supports spiritual development by promoting a sense of wonder and fascination with the physical and human world. By studying the physical *Geography* of different localities, pupils are provided with opportunities to appreciate and enjoy our planet and local area. At Halam C of E Primary we are sensitive to students' individual needs and backgrounds. Through the study of real people and places, such as London and features of the UK as well as wider global localities such as Brazil and Kenya, we promote a sense of wonder in the environment. We encourage our pupils to reflect on their own feelings, values and beliefs about the people, culture and places that they are learning about. Children may explore what it would be like to live in various contrasting settlements, or as a victim of a volcanic eruption or other natural disaster, to living in jungles and deserts. In turn, by learning about human geographical features our children can be inspired and motivated by the possibilities of their future and believe in the endless possibilities they have to make a difference upon this world, be it through sustainability, fair trade or climate change.

Moral development

Most geographical issues have a moral dimension, as environmental relationships provide a wealth of opportunities for debates. By considering how people treat the environment and posing challenging questions, pupils will be able to develop an ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong as well as an understanding of their moral responsibility to care for the world we live in. At Halam C of E Primary, within our classrooms, we value listening to others' views and opinions. We use real life issues to promote discussion and to allow children to decide on their own opinions about important events that are going on in the world. We think about the effects of humans on the natural environment and what this might mean for the future of our world and



encourage a sense of empathy towards others through the exploration of the inequalities found across the globe. We look at how the development of cities have put pressure on wildlife and the rural-urban fringe. We cover moral issues of sustainability and fair trade. We explore issues of poverty and the impact of climate change on people living in different types of settlement.

Social development

Geography lessons encourage the development of social skills as children have to work together and share their knowledge when working on the essential skills of mapping, enquiry tasks, completing fieldwork tasks and communicating their findings with others. Fieldwork and classroom opportunities that the geography curriculum provides, enhances social development as pupils develop a greater degree of self-discipline and rely on collaborative skills to ensure the learning is successful. At Halam C of E Primary social issues are common themes within geography. Children discuss issues such as climate change with an emphasis on how they can make a difference by making small changes to their lifestyles. In classrooms, we look for opportunities for pupils to use talk partners or small groups to promote self-esteem and build self-confidence. We encourage collaborative learning in the form of listening and learning from each other and paired discussion. We help pupils develop voice and opinion about the environment by offering explanations to each other. Successful school trips involve each child developing self-discipline and making a full contribution.

Cultural development

Through its study of real people in real places, geography makes a major contribution to cultural development. At Halam C of E Primary, an essential component of Geography is place knowledge. We learn about the characteristics of our local area and compare and contrast where we live with other places in the UK as well as more distant localities abroad. A sense of place requires a knowledge and understanding of the cultural traditions of the people who live there. Geography is a natural vehicle for exploring our own multicultural society - celebrating the diversity in our school community and exploring cultures that have had and still have an impact on the lives of our pupils. Children look at different places such as the seaside, the Lake District and London, as well as North and/or South America, and are introduced to their customs and traditions allowing pupils to develop their humility and an understanding of the world as a global community. We develop a sense of closeness with our own multicultural society and with other countries by exploring similarities of lifestyle, values, and beliefs.