

Geography at St Mary's Hampton

At St Mary's Hampton, we believe that geography is a vital part of a rich and balanced curriculum. Through high-quality geography education, pupils develop a sense of curiosity and fascination about the world and its people. Geography helps children to understand the physical and human features of the world, how places change over time, and how we are all connected.

Our geography curriculum is carefully designed to align with the National Curriculum and supports pupils' geographical development from the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) through Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. We take a progressive approach so that geographical skills, knowledge, and understanding are built upon year by year. This allows children to revisit and deepen their learning while developing a secure understanding of the world around them.

How Geography Is Taught

At St Mary's Hampton, geography is taught through engaging, well-sequenced lessons that encourage exploration, enquiry, and critical thinking. Lessons are designed to develop both geographical knowledge and key skills, enabling pupils to ask questions about places, patterns, and processes and to investigate the answers.

Pupils are given opportunities to:

- Develop knowledge of locations, places, and geographical features in the UK and the wider world
- Learn about physical geography, including landscapes, weather, climate, rivers, and mountains
- Explore human geography, such as settlements, land use, trade, and environmental impact
- Use and interpret maps, atlases, globes, aerial photographs, and digital mapping tools
- Develop fieldwork and observational skills through practical and first-hand experiences
- Ask geographical questions, gather information, and draw conclusions

In EYFS, children develop early geographical understanding through play-based learning and exploration of their immediate environment. They begin to talk about similarities and differences between places, explore the natural world, and develop a sense of place.

In Key Stages 1 and 2, pupils build on these foundations by developing increasing independence and confidence in using geographical vocabulary, skills, and concepts. Learning becomes more detailed and analytical, with pupils making links between physical and human geography and developing an understanding of global issues.

Geography is taught as an interactive subject where discussion, observation, and enquiry are central. Pupils are encouraged to talk about places, explain their thinking, and use appropriate geographical vocabulary to describe features, processes, and patterns.

How Geography Is Assessed

Assessment in geography at St Mary's Hampton is ongoing and formative. It focuses on pupils' progress in geographical skills, knowledge, and understanding rather than on isolated outcomes.

Teachers assess learning through:

- Observation of pupils during lessons and fieldwork
- Discussion and questioning to explore understanding and reasoning
- Review of written work, maps, diagrams, and other geographical outcomes over time
- Pupils' ability to explain ideas, make connections, and use geographical vocabulary accurately

Progress is measured by how well pupils develop and apply geographical skills, deepen their understanding of places and processes, and demonstrate increasing independence as they move through the school. This approach ensures that assessment supports learning and values each child's developing understanding of the world.

Across all phases, geography lessons at St Mary's Hampton are designed to inspire curiosity, develop a strong sense of place, and equip pupils with the knowledge and skills they need to understand and care for the world around them.