



St. John of God Primary School, The Faythe, Wexford, Y35 YT38

P. 053 9123105 | P. 087 965 7964 HSCL | Roll No. 11361T | Info@thefaytheschool.org

www.thefaytheschool.org

Geography Policy

Introduction

This primary school is based in Wexford Town with approximately 227 pupils. The school has 11 mainstream classrooms with 1 special class. There are 8 SEN teachers supporting the pupils. This Whole School Geography Plan has been devised in consultation with the whole staff taking from their experiences of teaching in our school.

Rationale

This policy has been designed to benefit the teaching and learning of Geography in our school. It aims to outline how we propose to implement the Geography Curriculum in our school by providing clear guidelines for teachers, ensuring consistency throughout the school and complying with legislation. Geography planning in our school is based on a 2 year cycle.

Vision

We seek to assist the children in our school in achieving their potential. Our school hopes to promote a coordinated approach to the planning and teaching of Geography so as to ensure development and continuity and can facilitate the evaluation of learning, teaching resources and approaches and methodologies.

Aims

We endorse the aims of the Primary School Curriculum 1999 for Geography which are:

- To develop knowledge and understanding of local, regional and wider environments and their interrelationships
- To encourage an understanding and appreciation of the variety of natural and human conditions on the Earth
- To develop empathy with people from diverse environments and an understanding of human interdependence
- To develop the ability to use a range of communicative methods, especially those concerned with the development of graphicacy (mapping and other non-verbal, non-numerical forms of data presentation)
- To encourage the development of a sense of place and spatial awareness
- To encourage the development of caring attitudes and responsible behaviour towards the environment, and involvement in the identification, discussion, resolution and avoidance of environmental problems
- To develop an understanding of appropriate geographical concepts.

Curriculum Planning

Geography Whole School Year 1/Year 2 Plan: Junior and Senior Infants

Strand	Year 1	Year 2
	Strand Unit	Strand Unit
Human environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Living in the local community People and places in other areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Living in the local community People and places in other areas
Natural environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local natural environment Weather Planet Earth in space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local natural environment Weather Planet Earth in space
Environmental awareness and care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caring for my locality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caring for my locality
Themes as laid out in 'Explore with me' (Edcolearning) Year 1: Senior Infants book Year 2: Junior Infants book	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rooms in my home The People who help me at school The Farmer in Autumn The Firefighter A Day at the Zoo I like to play Treasure Hunt The Easter Egg Hunt Musical instruments from around the world Scotland The North Pole and the South Pole France Different homes in different places Day and Night The Sun, Moon and Stars Water all around A campsite map Help the endangered animals Don't waste a drop The Beach- Let's Clean Up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My Classroom My Teacher The Park Trick or Treat The Builder This is my home Play Spaces We're going to the playground Springtime on the Farm Getting Home from school The Pilot Ireland Tour of Dublin Italy Summer is Here! At the Seaside Winter is Here! My winter clothes Spring is here! Composting and recycling

Geography Whole School Year1/Year 2 Plan: First and Second Class

Strand	Year 1	Year 2
	Strand Unit	Strand Unit
Human environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Living in the local community People and places in other areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Living in the local community People and places in other areas
Natural environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local natural environment Weather Planet Earth in space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local natural environment Weather Planet Earth in space
Environmental awareness and care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caring for my locality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caring for my locality
Themes as laid out in 'Explore with me' (Edcolearning) Year 1: 1 st class book Year 2: 2 nd class book	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School – A Bird's Eye View People who help me in the community India- Fact File Sandeep's Day Homes Map of the Fairytale Forest A Home to Live in Little Reindeer's Map Lapland Toys from around the world Plan your own playground The Park ranger Spain- Fact File Meet Francisco Transport around the world Examining a map An Garda Síochána Food from around the world Shauna the Baker Diego and the Banana plant We're off to the beach Autumn is Here Winter is Here 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where I live Celebrating Diversity People at Work Famous European Clock Ariel View A Day in the life of a newsreader The Provinces of Ireland A Map to the school Concert Germany The Counties of Ireland The Bike Race Where in the World The Wild Atlantic Way The United States of America Belfast and New York: City Fact Files Life in a Floating Village The Lifeguard Autumn Winter Irish Mountains Spring Pond Life The Sun The Planets

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Earth's Natural Features • Spring is Here • The Water Cycle • Recording Rainfall • Summer is Here • Features of the beach • Our school garden 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A View from Space • Weather in Ireland and other areas • Investigating Soil • Taking care of my community in winter • Spring Cleaning • Water Conservation
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Geography Whole School Year 1/Year 2 Plan: Third and Fourth Class

	Year 1	Year 2
Strand	Strand Unit	Strand Unit
Human environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People living and working in the local area • People living and working in a contrasting part of Ireland • People and other lands • County, regional and national centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living in the local community • People and places in other areas
Natural environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The local natural environment • Lands, rivers and seas of my county • Rocks and soils • Weather, climate and atmosphere • Planet Earth in space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The local natural environment • Weather • Planet Earth in space
Environmental awareness and care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental awareness • Caring for the environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental awareness • Caring for my locality
Themes as laid out in Small World Geography and Science (CJ Fallon) Year 1: 3 rd class book Year 2: 4 th class book	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buildings all around me • Living together • Life in Blanchardstown • Staying in touch • Ireland people and places • Britain • Egypt • Mountains • Soils • Weather • Rainforests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting around • People at work • A visit to Arranmore Island • Italy • Japan • Nature is powerful • Trees • Weather and climate • Ireland people and places • Rocks • Rivers and seas • Animals

Geography Whole School Year 1/Year 2 Plan: Fifth and Sixth Class

	Year 1	Year 2
Strand	Strand Unit	Strand Unit
Human environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People living and working in the local area • People living and working in a contrasting part of Ireland • People and other lands • County, regional and national centres • Trade and development issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People living and working in the local area • People living and working in a contrasting part of Ireland • People and other lands • County, regional and national centres • Trade and development issues
Natural environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The local natural environment • Lands, rivers and seas of Ireland • Rocks and soils • Physical features of Europe and the world • Weather, climate and atmosphere • Planet Earth in space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The local natural environment • Lands, rivers and seas of Ireland • Rocks and soils • Physical features of Europe and the world • Weather, climate and atmosphere • Planet Earth in space
Environmental awareness and care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental awareness • Caring for my locality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental awareness • Caring for the environment
Themes as laid out in Small World Geography and Science (CJ Fallon) Year 1: 6 th class Year 2: 5 th class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life in Rural Tipperary • People at work • Plants • Sligo- A Story in Images and Maps • People and the natural environment • Greece • Transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buildings and settlements • People and communities • Communications • France • Famine • Mexico • Plants

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade • Light • Physical Geography: Africa, Australia and Europe • The Moon • Study of a Bogland area • Weather and climate • China • Rocks • Our environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irish Mountains, Lakes and Rivers • Animals • Physical features of Europe and the World • The Burren • Soils • Weather, climate and atmosphere • Heat • Outer space • Environmental awareness and care
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Concept skills and development

Junior Infants-6th Class

A sense of place and space

- A sense of place
- A sense of space

Maps Globes and Graphical Skills

- Using pictures, maps and globes

Geographical investigation skills

- Questioning
- Predicting
- Estimating and measuring
- Observing
- Investigating and experimenting
- Analyzing
- Recording and communicating
- Evaluating (teach this skill for 3rd-6th class)

Approaches and Methodologies

- Approaches and Methodologies
- Active learning
- Problem solving
- Developing skills through content
- Talk and discussion
- Co-operative learning
- Use of the environment
- Using a thematic approach

Linkage and Integration

At each class level the teachers will seek to integrate Geography with other curricular areas. Teachers will make provision for this linkage in their short-term planning.

Multi-Grade Teaching

- Our plan is divided into Year 1 and Year 2
- Using a thematic approach
- Integration with other subjects
- Text books
- Classroom organization

Assessment and record keeping

Children's progress in Geography is assessed through:

- Teacher observation
- Teacher designed tasks and tests
- Portfolios and projects
- Pupil self-assessment and peer assessment

Equality of Participation and Access

We view the Geography programme as playing a key role in ensuring equality of opportunity for all children. The programme at each class level will be flexible so that the learning requirements of all children may be addressed. We provide an equal educational experience for both boys and girls as we recognise that stereotyped expectations of gender roles can inhibit children's educational achievements. Children with special needs will be included in all activities.

Organisational Planning

Timetable

As per curriculum guidelines

SESE- Infants 2hrs 15 mins

1st-6th class 3 hrs

Resources, ICT and Community Links

This list is not exhaustive of the resources used in our school

- Local library textbooks and visits
- Classroom library books
- Photos, newspaper cuttings & other resources brought in by children/parents/teachers
- Relevant software
- Interactive whiteboard
- Local Geography trails
- Visitors with geographical knowledge
- Websites: www.scoilnet.ie , www.twinkl.co.uk , www.heritageinschools.ie , www.treecouncil.ie , www.youtube.ie , www.geology.ie , www.earthscienceireland.org , www.iqua.ie , www.pesp.ie , www.sdps.ie , www.enfo.ie , www.teachnet.ie , <https://www.wexfordcoco.ie>
- Junior Infants-2nd Class use Explore with Me as the base programme
- 3rd-6th class use Small World as the base programme
- Wild Things at School book by Éanna ní Lamhna

Health and Safety

The teaching of Geography in our school will at all times, be governed by our Health and Safety policy.

Individual Teacher's Planning and Reporting

Teachers will base their yearly and short term plans on our whole school plan for Geography which is divided into Year 1 and Year 2 plans.

Teachers will consult this whole school plan and the curriculum documents for Geography when they are drawing up their long and short term plans, ensuring that the correct number of strand units under each strand are taught. Each teacher's Cuntas míosúil will assist in recording work covered and in evaluating progress in Geography and informing future teaching and learning.

Staff Development

- Teachers have access to reference books, resource materials, and websites dealing with Geography.
- At times there may be appropriate SESE courses available. Teachers are encouraged to attend.
- Teachers are encouraged to share the expertise acquired at these courses as well as other aspects of the subject. This is organised at staff meetings and as part of our CPHs.
- Working with local people who have good geographical knowledge of the area benefits teachers and children alike.

Parental Involvement

Parents with special relevant knowledge may be invited into school to speak to children.

Success Criteria

The success of this plan will be measured using the following criteria:

- Teacher observation.
- Teacher designed tasks and tests.
- Samples of children's work e.g. projects, portfolios, art displays.
- Feedback from pupils and parents.
- Inspectors' suggestions/feedback.
- Staff meetings/CPHs so that time is given to discuss, review and amend if necessary.

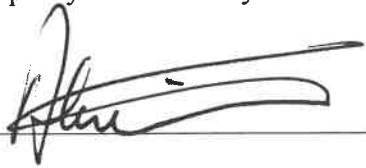
Roles and Responsibilities

Class teachers are responsible for the implementation of the Geography programme in their own classes.

Ratification and Communication

Ratification:

This revised policy was ratified by the Board of Management on _____ (date)

Signed:  _____

Date: 8/10/25

Signed:  _____

Date: _____