

SMSC

Opening Worlds Curriculum: Geography

Spiritual development

Through the study of geography, the children are encouraged to reflect on their own beliefs, values and perspectives as they engage with a rich understanding of the world. By exploring diverse cultures, traditions and environments, they are prompted to think about their own place in the world and their role within both local and global communities. This broadening of horizons helps the children to develop a deeper sense of identity and purpose. Furthermore, by encountering a wide variety of worldviews and practices, they learn to appreciate and respect the faiths, feelings and values of others and express an informed curiosity about the world.

Moral development

Within the geography programme, the children explore the consequences of human actions on the environment and societies, thus fostering an understanding of right and wrong in real-world contexts. Through topics such as climate change, resource use and global inequalities, the children are encouraged to reflect on personal and collective responsibility, engage with ethical dilemmas and consider diverse perspectives. The children study climate change, resource use and sustainability every year from contrasting regions of the globe (rain forests, oceans, climate, land use, human interaction). Repeated and explicit focus on foundational geographical knowledge empowers the children to think critically about how to change the world for the common good whilst forming reasoned views on complex moral issues. Their moral development is demonstrated through their ability to understand the consequences of their own behaviour and actions.

Social development

The geography curriculum equips the children with the knowledge and skills to shape good geographical enquiries that thoughtfully consider the diverse communities and societal structures of whom they affect. Through its exploration of global cultures, social systems and human-environment interactions, the children learn to appreciate different perspectives and understand their roles within local, national and global contexts. The curriculum fosters collaboration through group discussions and projects, helping pupils build interpersonal skills and work effectively with others. By addressing real-world issues, such as urbanisation, migration and environmental challenges, it encourages the children to think critically about social responsibilities and solutions. Their social development is demonstrated through their ability to interact positively with others, understand societal norms and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

Cultural development

The children study a range of societies, environments and historical contexts across the Opening Worlds humanities curriculum which develop an understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity. Through this wider context, the children are encouraged to explore

different ways of life, including traditions, customs and beliefs, helping them to respect and value differences. Engaging with cultural topics through discussions, projects and activities foster meaningful insights into how cultural exchange shapes societies, thus developing respect and tolerance of others within modern society.