Geography through the Early years at St Mary's

Understanding the world involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community. The frequency and range of children's personal experiences increases their knowledge and sense of the world around them-from visiting parks, libraries and museums to meeting important members of society such as police officers, nurses and firefighters. In addition, listening to a broad selection of stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems will foster their understanding of our culturally, socially, technologically and ecologically diverse world.

In Nursery and Reception we teach Geography through the EYFS area of Understanding the world.

Nursery

By the end of their time in Nursery, children will have had many opportunities to explore St Mary's Big Ideas **Location, Diversity and Impact** through exploring our local environment, discussing places we have visited, exploring Rendlesham Forest and by caring for our school environment.

Location

Nursery children learn about **Location** by exploring their local environment, going on local walks and by making treasure maps to explore the outdoor area.

Diversity

Nursery children learn about **Diversity** by talking about places other than there locality, visiting other places such Rendlesham Forest, looking for mini-beasts in different places and through seasonal walks.

Impact

Nursery children learn about **Impact** by learning to look after their local environment.

By the end of their time in nursery children will have had opportunities to:

- Begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things.
- Know that there are different countries in the world and talk about the differences they have experienced or seen in photos.

Reception

In Reception we build upon the children's understanding of **Location, Diversity and Impact** through:

Location

We further develop an understanding of **Location** through going on local walks, talking about where we live, talking about holidays, locating different places on maps and atlases and by drawing maps of the local area.

Diversity

We develop our understanding of **Diversity** by comparing Hadleigh to other places the children have visited such as the seaside, the forest and the mountains, other countries, comparing the habitat of different animals such as mini-beasts and seasonal walks.

Impact

We develop our understanding of **Impact** by exploring how we can care for our environment, look after our world and through our R.E. unit 'How can we care for our wonderful world.'

By the end of their time in Reception children will have had opportunities to:

- Draw information from a simple map.
- Recognise some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries.
- Explore the natural world around them.
- Describe what they see, hear and feel whilst outside.
- Recognise some environments that are different from the one in which they live.
- Understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them.

By the end of their time in Reception, most children will be able to:

- Describe their immediate environment using knowledge from observation, discussion, stories, non-fiction texts and maps;
- Explain some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries, drawing on knowledge from stories, non-fiction texts and when appropriate, maps.