



## Subject Leader Self-Evaluation and Report

2019-2021

**Subject** Geography

**Subject Leader** Mrs Haigh

### Achievements and Standards

The teaching of geography continues to be of a good standard throughout school, with children displaying strong levels of engagement and interest. In line with the new EYFS curriculum, the geography policy has been checked and updated, including the skills progression table. SLT have carefully considered the whole school curriculum topic cycle to ensure coverage of geographical knowledge and skills across each key stage are coherently planned and sequenced. Teachers will also plan opportunities to revisit certain knowledge points and skills to further develop children's understanding and memory.

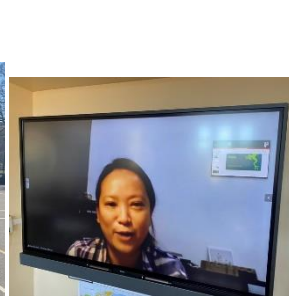
### Quality of Teaching and Learning

The school's SIP (Mrs Thomas) did a deep dive of Geography in the Spring term 2021. This included book scrutinies, lesson observations, pupil interviews and a subject leader interview. Mrs Thomas attended a staff meeting and reported back many strengths including high quality geography displays, children engaged in lessons and clear progression in lessons. Each topic now includes a knowledge organiser which details the skills and knowledge the children should achieve by the end of a unit. There was evidence of the different ways that the children have researched to find out more. For example, Atlas work, Internet research, field work and comprehension work.

Teachers have this year extended the children's learning through literacy. During lockdown children were still able to access geography lessons through Google Classroom. The subject leader has attended the 3 virtual 'Geography Curriculum Update' sessions run by Calderdale and fed back findings to all members of staff. A 'St. John's Geographer' document has been developed for the website and for the children's books. The school has become a member of the the Geographical Association so that more resources and CPD can be accessed for all staff.

### Strengths

A real strength of this subject areas is educational visits, dressing up days and homework projects. This year the school has introduced an Earth Week, with a focus on current environmental issues. This was so well received it will now become a regular yearly event. The children combined literacy learning and geography learning during this week and had competitions and homework projects to create interest and enthusiasm. In EYFS and Key Stage 1, the China topic was enhanced with a dressing up curriculum day to celebrate Chinese New Year and a visiting Chinese folk dancer worked with all the groups of children. Zoom calls have been used instead of trips and the children have had interactive calls with a sea turtle expert in Florida, a local conservationist for Turner Wood and the Rainforest Alliance in Sri Lanka. We hope to use this method of making links with experts in areas of the world a regular feature. In Key Stage 2, the children have helped to plant trees on the school field to improve the school environment and have been involved in litter picking. Virtual visitor sessions to support learning have also taken place during Earth week - Year 6 even recreated their own Greta Thunberg style protest!



### Areas for future development

- Teachers will introduce mini quizzes to test children's knowledge after a topic and before a new topic is started previous knowledge will be recapped.
- More opportunities to develop fieldwork and outdoor learning will be developed including access to orienteering resources.
- We will ensure that key locational knowledge is prioritised in each topic.

