**A St John’s Geographer**

***‘Children are a gift from the Lord’ (Psalm 127 v.3)***

**The vision of our school**

***St. John’s is a caring, Christian community striving to support its members to achieve their God given potential. Exploring our unique gifts and raising aspirations, we prepare our children for the challenges of the modern world. Following Jesus’ example, we seek to grow good people who can make a difference.***

**A Vision Statement for Geography**

Our Geography curriculum inspires in our pupils a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that we hope will remain with them for the rest of their lives, so that they can take an active part in contributing to and protecting this amazing world as they grow up.

The Geography units of work ensure the accumulation of knowledge, behaviours, and skills that offer both progression and challenge as the children move through St. John’s (see ‘Progression of Skills Knowledge Map’). Pupils are given many opportunities to demonstrate their **cultural** awareness, knowledge and competence during their geography studies.

We recognise that each and every children is a ‘…gift from the Lord’ consequently, developing and supporting every child in our care: spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually to become the best that they can be is fundamental to all that we do. We want our children to have the desire to aspire and achieve whatever they want in the world.

As with all curriculum subjects, our school’s Christian vision drives all of our learning.

**God in our Lives**

Our school is a safe place where curious children feel they can discuss and develop their understanding.

Through the Geography study units pupils explore their own place in the world, their values, and their rights and responsibilities to other people and to the environment. Children are encouraged to recognise their uniqueness and the important role that they each play both in their local environment and in the wider world.

**Ignite your fire**

At St John’s we develop enthusiastic, curious and independent thinkers by feeding children’s curiosity about their world. As pupils learn about places in the UK and abroad, about the people and communities that make up our world and about the incredible natural habitats, we ignite a spark to encourage children to find out more. They are given opportunities to pore over maps, question visitors and explore their local area, safe in the knowledge that no question is too trivial to explore together.

We want our children to recognise that amazing things happen on our doorstep. You do not have to travel to far flung places to be fascinated by the world – we get our wellies on, get our fingernails dirty and get outside. By exploring our wonderful school environment, pupils will learn to use compass points and geographical language as well as draw and interpret maps - a vital life skill!

We seek to grow good people who can make a difference to the world around them. Through our units of study, children explore both the human and physical changes to our world. We want our children to recognise the threats that our world faces in its future and recognise the difference that they can make.

For example, in Year 1 & 2, the children immerse themselves in the John Burningham story ‘Oi! Get Off Our Train’ and find out about the way in which many animals are endangered because of the threats to their habitat or food. What can we do about this? What changes can we make to the way that we live our lives?

**Family**

The children will be given the opportunity, both inside and outside the classroom, to develop their cooperative skills. Through a range of open ended problem solving activities, they will develop the ability to dare to try new things and persevere when things get tough. They will be encouraged to rely on each other, make the most of each other’s strengths and learn how to ‘fall out well’ when maybe things don’t quite turn out as expected.

**Truth**

At St John’s we aim to ‘grow’ tolerant and responsible citizens through developing the pupils’ appreciation of how they can impact their world. The children engage in activities with people and organisations already working to make a difference in the world (e.g. the WWF’s work with endangered animals), learning about localities other than their own, learning about economic activity, trade links and the use or misuse of resources.

Through their geographical studies, pupils are challenged to consider difficult questions and make personal responses to issues of inequality. Children are encouraged to be true to themselves, have the courage to stand up for others and what they believe is right.