



Geography and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development **(SMSC)**

Spiritual Development

Through teaching geography, we can also develop children's spiritual development. Essentially, Geography is about studying people; where they live and our relationship with the environment. This involves providing children with the opportunities to reflect on their own values and beliefs and those of others. Children may explore what it would be like to live in an African village, or in fear of an earthquake or volcanic eruption, to living in a UK coastal town. Children have the opportunity to explore their own feelings about the people, culture, place and environments that they are learning about.

Moral Development

Most geographical issues provide opportunities for distinguishing a moral dimension; for example, should deforestation be allowed in a rainforest? Should the Government do more to prevent coastal erosion and provide alternative places for the residents to live? Such issues are explored through fun decision-making activities, where children understand the views held by society, and by various groups within society, and will develop their own attitudes and values in relation to these.

Social Development

Fieldwork and classroom opportunities that the geography curriculum provides, enhances social development as pupils develop a greater degree of self-discipline and rely on collaborative skills to ensure the learning is successful.

Geography also teaches an understanding of citizenship, where debates and discussions teach pupils about the planning process in a town or city; they learn about national and international trade links how this has an impact on people and places; and they understand the concept of sustainable development.

Cultural Development

An essential component of Geography is place knowledge. By understanding the features and characteristics their local area, children understand why it is like that, and can contrast where they live with more distant localities, in this country and abroad. This understanding ensures children are aware of the cultural traditions associated with the place they are studying, as well as our own multicultural society.