

Adaptive teaching strategies in Geography at Clyst St Mary

At Cyst St Mary Primary School, we want every child to be a curious explorer of our world. To make sure no one is left behind, we use adaptive teaching. This isn't about making the work easier; it's about giving every child the right tools to reach the same high goals.

1. Resilience:

Geography can be tricky—like learning to read a complex map or understanding climate change. We help children build resilience by:

- **Scaffolding:** We provide word banks or sentence starters.
- **Breaking it down:** We turn big global topics into smaller, manageable steps so children don't feel overwhelmed.
- **Pre-teach Vocabulary:** Introduce key subject terms (e.g., *volcano*, *settlement*) before the lesson using visual cues, word banks, and concrete resources.
- **Scaffold Tasks:** Use writing frames, sentence starters and "what a good one looks like" models to support independent work.
- **Diverse Recording Methods:** Allow children to demonstrate their understanding through labelled maps, storyboards, role-play, or audio recordings rather than only extended writing.
- **Sensory and Visual Support:** Provide enlarged images, high-contrast resources, and hands-on "concrete" materials to make abstract concepts tangible.

2. Aspiration:

- **High Expectations:** Every child studies the same ambitious topics, from our local Devon landscape to distant continents.
- **Smart Tools:** We use technology like Google Earth and visual diagrams to help every child see and understand the world, ensuring everyone has an equal seat at the table.

- **Adapt Map Skills:** Offer simplified map forms, such as annotated aerial photographs instead of complex OS maps, or provide sand trays for children to build physical models.

3. Kindness:

Our motto, "nurture and grow together," is at the heart of our geography lessons.

- **Knowing the Child:** Teachers adapt lessons on the fly because they know your child's strengths and where they might need a little extra kindness and support.
- **Collaborative Learning:** Children often work in mixed-ability pairs or groups, learning to support one another and value different perspectives on global issues.

Bringing it home to Devon

We ensure we use the local area to undertake fieldwork and adapt our outdoor learning so every child can participate safely and successfully. We want our pupils to leave us not just knowing names on a map, but feeling like capable, compassionate global citizens.