

Geography Overview



Our geography topics are sequenced, coherent and build on previous skills. They allow children to revisit previous learning and increase their knowledge of the world we live in. They also develop their skills in practical activities and are encouraged to ask questions and carry out enquiries. In Key Stage 1, Lower Key Stage 2 and Upper Key Stage 2 four geography topics are taught across the two-year period.

The key aspects of geography taught are factual information, including the way things are in the world such as country locations, capital cities and how mountains are formed. Alongside this, children are consistently learning new key geographical vocabulary. Children are encouraged to ask geographical questions and carry out enquiries through the use of practical and fieldwork activities to find an answer to these enquiries.

We teach the National Curriculum by using a published geography scheme to base our geography topics and lessons on as well as supplementing this with teacher planned fieldwork activities.

Where there are opportunities, we make cross curricular links as well as whole school geography links in assemblies.

EYFS

The EYFS framework is structured very differently to the National Curriculum as it is organised across seven areas of learning rather than subject areas. We continuously use our understanding of child development and skill progression, baselines, observations and assessments to identify and review our children's strengths and gaps. This knowledge, along with the Educational Outcomes and Early Learning Goals within the Statutory Framework, drives our provision, learning environment and tailors our curriculum to the children's needs as well as ensuring we provide a broad range of knowledge and skills that are continuously built upon to provide the right foundations for the children in our care to become lifelong learners. All of this is provided through our continuous provision to engage children's curiosity, thinking and learning through play and adult focus tasks.

For both F1 and F2 Geography is not taught separately instead it is in and among the different areas of learning however, we look closely at their immediate environment and discuss the different things that are in their local community - we do a variety of activities that change depending on the cohort needs. As the school year goes on, we do look at similarities and differences of different places/countries etc. When assessing, we have an area that is called Understanding the World and within this area, it has the following categories: Past and Present People, Culture and Communities and The Natural World.

Key Stage 1

Topics taught in Key Stage 1 link to learning in EYFS for example, when covering the topic 'Where Do I Live?', children use simple fieldwork and observational skills to study the geography of their school its grounds and surrounding environment. 'Around the World' and 'My World and Me', extend this knowledge by learning about the seven continents, countries and oceans. Children get used to looking at a range of age appropriate resources such as atlases and computer maps e.g. google maps, and become increasingly confident at using them. Map work is also covered in more detail including in the 'Magical Mapping' topic, which is a key skill that is built on and linked back to continuously through their geographical learning.

'Let's Go on Safari!' looks at a contrasting locality to compare with Athersley and continues to draw on geographical vocabulary they have been exposed to.

Each topic recaps, revisits and builds on children's past experiences and brings in personal knowledge and experiences. This is taught in preparation for more complex geographical topics in Key Stage 2. Children in Key Stage 1 have opportunities to experience a variety of activities including teacher led practical activities and fieldwork.

Lower Key Stage 2

Children build on learning from Key Stage 1 to extend their geographical understanding. 'Countries of the World' and 'Our European Neighbours' build on the children's knowledge, understanding and vocabulary learnt in Key Stage 1 about the wider world we live in.

Children expand their knowledge of human and physical geography in the topic 'Village Settlers' and explore the reasons locations were chosen to settle in.

'All Around the World' focusses children on the different climate zones and biomes in the world. As well as learning about food from around the world.

Lower Key Stage 2 also take part in practical and fieldwork activities, they are encouraged to become more independent in guided enquires around the school grounds and our local area. Once they have completed an enquiry, they are supported in making evaluations based on what they have found.

Upper Key Stage 2

In Upper Key stage 2 fieldwork becomes even more independent. Children take part in a human and a physical enquiry linked to our local area. The human enquiry looks at land use in Athersley where children create their own land use maps. For the physical enquiry we visit the River Dearne and collect information about the wildlife that is found there or children can choose to investigate river pollution in the area. In both the human and physical enquiries, children not only carry out the investigation they also evaluate what they have found and make conclusions.

They further their learning about rivers in their 'Investigating Rivers' topic, where they focus on describing and understanding key aspects of physical geography. This is further expanded in 'Extreme Earth', where children are exposed to information about the natural phenomena of earthquakes, extreme weather, tsunamis and volcanoes.

In Upper Key Stage 2 children also return to learning about the United Kingdom, the countries, seas, counties, cities and important features and landmarks. This reinforces previous learning and also links to the British Values that are taught throughout school and strengthens their understanding of who they are and where they come from.

Throughout the geography scheme, there is complete coverage of all national curriculum programmes of study. By the end of Key Stage 2 our children have a well-rounded, thorough understanding of the world around them and are armed with a broad range of vocabulary and skills that that can be used throughout their lives.