

What does Geography look like at our school?

From Nursery, up to Year 6, your child will be taught the essential knowledge and skills taken from the Early Years Framework and the National Curriculum. Our well-planned journey through the Geography curriculum helps our pupils to remember their previous learning as well as learn lots of new knowledge and skills too! This well-planned journey also gives pupils the opportunity to practise some of the really important parts of the learning so that pupils can remember it in the long term and prepare them for their learning at High School, whilst building a thirst for finding out more.

Our curriculum is regularly refined in line with the latest guidance, subject research reports from Ofsted and current affairs.



As soon as children come to our school, they are encouraged to explore the world around them by looking at similarities, differences, patterns and change. Lessons are taught to encourage the children to think like a geographer, to develop curiosity about the world around them and how is it continually changing, whilst also inspiring our children to present what they have learnt in a range of different styles.

EYFS

If your child is in Nursery or Reception, they will join our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Our curriculum is taken from the statutory framework. At our school we ensure that all areas of EYFS learning are important and interconnected using planned, purposeful play and a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activities.

In EYFS, your child will start to gain the geographical knowledge that they'll build on throughout their primary school years. Our Geography topics are built upon the foundation knowledge and skills develop in the 'Understanding the World' area, looking at 'People, Culture and Communities' as well as 'The Natural World' and are closely linked to



the learning in Year 1. We teach the children to explore their immediate environment, using knowledge from observations, discussion, stories and maps. We give them hands on opportunities to investigate, observe and to ask and answer questions. In EYFS, the children become inquisitive by identifying similarities and differences between cultural communities as well as life in this country and life in other countries. They are also introduced to the world around them by exploring what they can see, observing objects closely, using equipment such as a map and are introduced to geographical vocabulary when using their observations to suggest answers to questions. This will help them get ready to be eager geographers when they get to Year 1 and beyond!

KS1 and KS2

All children in Y1-6 receive a minimum of 1-hour Geography teaching a week, alternating half-termly with History. All Geography lessons start with a 'Flashback Four' activity that links to prior learning in a range of related subjects, enabling the children to recall information, key vocabulary and concepts taught in previous lessons -this activity helps them with their new learning. Key vocabulary is displayed in class and explained to support the children's learning and any new skills are modelled by the teacher before the children begin to apply these independently or as a part of a group. Each class has a map that is used and referred to in each lesson to deepen the children's understanding of location and place of the area that they are studying. The revisiting of key knowledge and skills helps the children to become more confident geographers over time when using these independently.

In all Geography lessons, this is what you might typically see:

- Engagement and perseverance from all learners.
- Children practising and applying knowledge to different situations.
- Happy, confident, and independent learners.
- Children exploring the world around them
- Children learning more about where they live
- Children working cooperatively in paired/group work.
- A classroom environment with displays including key vocabulary, to support learning and reflect progression in learning.
- Children discussing, reflecting and sharing their learning.
- There are regular practical sessions where children have opportunities to develop their map skills. A range of engaging resources enable the children to deepen their learning and develop their understanding of the concept that is being taught.
- Lessons incorporate the use of technology where appropriate.



How do we adapt our Geography Curriculum?

We know how important it is to give pupils the time they need to repeat or practise some of their learning so that they can remember it in the long term when they progress through school and onto High School. Teachers use this information to inform planning, ensuring that any foundation skills and vocabulary that had been missed are included in planning and the delivery of teaching so that all children are given the opportunity to be successful in their learning. Our Geography curriculum highlights links to prior learning and we have identified links to future topics so that teachers are aware of how the children's current learning links into learning to follow -either in the same year or in the years that follow. Teachers know that children learn at different rates and require different types of support for all sorts of reasons and our plans are adapted accordingly to meet the needs of our pupils.

Our pupils love taking their learning outside of the classroom too, being able to explore what they are learning in different surroundings which is why we love taking our pupils out on educational visits!

How can I support my child's learning in Geography?

Before we start a new Geography topic, your child's 'knowledge organiser' will be available for you via email. This will tell you what your child will be learning in Geography that half term and will give you some activities you can do at home as well as showing the key vocabulary that your child will be using in class. These activities can be great fun and a good way to start conversations about their learning as well as introducing new vocabulary. Another great way to support learning in Geography is to get out and about in Manchester and the North West, immersing yourself in our local environment. We can learn so much about our local area just by going for a family walk!

BBC bitesize also has tonnes of information on their website which will also help with our Geography curriculum and they have little quizzes which children love to do.

Reading

What has geography got to do with reading? Well, if your child is struggling to read, they aren't going to be able to access the curriculum. Lots of the map work and fieldwork children have to use in geography are written down and the children need to be able to read them as well as having the ability to use the fantastic geography-based texts that we have in school to support learning! We have a saying in our school, 'we learn to read so we can read to learn.' So, please support your child with all of their learning by hearing them read each night. We have plenty of books to support our geography curriculum. Children can learn more about our local area and the world on a wider scale by reading books in our classrooms and school library.



Assessment



We know that it is important to monitor children's progress in school across the curriculum, one way to do this is through assessment and teachers are continually assessing the children in all types of ways so they can help them progress further with their learning. Assessment in Geography is carried out within each lesson and also at various points throughout the school year. Children are provided with next step marking and feedback from their teachers and peers that help to extend children's learning as well as finding out what they do or do not know so that they can give the right support.

All KS1 and KS2 classes complete an assessment at the end of each topic and these can take a variety of forms e.g. quizzes, information leaflets and fact files that assess what has been

taught that half term. This will then inform teacher assessment for Geography at different points in the year and help us to understand where there are gaps in learning. These assessments also help the teachers understand what knowledge the children have remembered from previous year groups.

Who do I speak to if I want to know more about what my child is learning in geography at school?

Your child's class teacher knows your child best and is best placed to keep you informed about the content of geography lessons. Mrs Taylor and Miss Loughery are our Geography Subject Leaders and they will also be only too happy to answer any questions, queries or concerns that you may have about all things geography!

Extra Support

During their time at school, some children may need extra support in various areas of the geography curriculum, this is because children learn at different paces and have different learning styles. It isn't anything to worry about and it is good that we can provide them with extra help when needed. Some of the ways in which we provide extra support during our geography lessons at school are:

- We use teacher and self-assessment to quickly identify any child who requires additional support in specific areas.
- We have as many practical geography lessons as possible because we know this really helps children to remember what they are learning.
- Adaptive teaching strategies support children who learn in different ways.
- We celebrate individual pupil progress in their learning journey.
- We make cross curricular links whenever possible.
- Provide visual and practical prompts as well as using step by step approaches, 'guided talking', thinking aloud in front of pupils, questioning etc particularly to support new skills being taught.
- We encourage all children to be positive learners and teach children strategies to help them persevere when overcoming challenges in their learning.
- Teaching lessons using a range of different techniques to appeal to different learning styles e.g. videos, interactive websites, drama, equipment, texts etc.



If you think that your child would benefit from some extra support in Geography, please speak to your child's class teacher or make an appointment to speak to our SENDCo, Mrs Shaw.

Safeguarding and well-being



A child's welfare, well-being and safety is of the utmost importance to us. A child can't learn or make any progress in school if they don't feel safe and secure. We all know they need to be happy and we are here to ensure all of our children are nurtured to reach their full potential. Sometimes, learning in a lesson can trigger something to upset a child. We have a special programme in school to help any children who may be struggling with their emotions and well-being. If you have any concerns about your child or in fact another child, please do not hesitate to contact our Designated Safeguarding Leads, Mr Usher or

Mrs Kennedy and they will be happy to talk through any concerns you may have.

Personal Development

In addition to our exciting and stimulating curriculum, we also provide further opportunities to enhance children's learning wherever possible. We offer a range of different enrichment activities and events in order to ensure we are equipping our children with the knowledge and cultural capital to succeed in life.

Through our geography curriculum we are ensuring that children are able to recognise the link between their geography lessons and their own lives and experiences. We aim to help children appreciate the importance of geography, our local area and the wider world as well as how it has changed and continues to change.



We aim to inspire in our children a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people which will remain with them for the rest of their lives. We want to promote children's interest and understanding of diverse places and people, to create a love of the natural environment and a motivation to make a positive impact as they grow to become pioneers of our world.