

Geography at Old Park

Geography is led by our Curriculum Lead and our Geography support teachers.

Why Do We Teach Geography?

We believe that a well-rounded Geography curriculum will allow children to gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of world Geography, enabling them to make comparisons between geographical features locally and globally. We have designed our Geography curriculum with the aim of expanding geographical vocabulary, increasing our children's knowledge and curiosity of the wider world and to promote high aspirations as they progress through the school.

In addition to this, we recognise the important role that Geography plays in preparing our children with skills and knowledge that they can use for life, for example - understanding the wider world and how this can have an impact upon their own lives locally, how to be a good and responsible citizen, understanding change, environmental issues and how and why this can impact their own lives and their future.

Through our Geography curriculum we want the children to gain a deep understanding of the world we live in. Our curriculum helps to provoke and provide answers to questions about the natural and human aspects of the world. At Old Park, children are encouraged to develop a greater understanding and knowledge of the world, as well as their place within it. The geography curriculum enables children to develop knowledge and skills that are transferable to other curriculum areas. Geography is an investigative subject, which develops an understanding of concepts, knowledge and skills. Our intent, when teaching geography, is to inspire in children a sense of responsibility for the world and the people within it; to promote the children's interest and understanding of diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes.

As specified in the National Curriculum 2014, our curriculum aims to extend pupil's knowledge and understanding beyond the local area to include the United Kingdom and Europe, North and South America. This will include the location and characteristics of a range of the world's most significant human and physical features. They should develop their use of geographical knowledge, understanding and skills to enhance their locational and place knowledge.

We believe that teaching Geography in this way is important in broadening children's knowledge, challenging preconceived ideas and developing life skills in order to enable them to make informed decisions about life choices in the future.

How Do We Teach Geography?

Geography is taught in discrete units across the year, this ensures that they understand the term 'Geography' and the key language that will enable them to access a deeper understanding as they progress through school.

The Geography subject leaders have identified the key knowledge and skills of each unit and these are mapped out across the school, ensuring that knowledge builds progressively and that children develop skills systematically.

Acquired knowledge is checked through the use of weekly retrieval questions, and retained knowledge is checked through quizzes set at 2 weeks, 6 weeks and 12 weeks after the unit has been taught.

The Geography provision is well resourced and specific resources are mapped to specific year groups and topics to support effective teaching and learning. The local area is fully utilised to achieve the desired outcomes, with extensive opportunities for learning outside the classroom embedded in practice.

Does Our Geography curriculum influence Our children?

Outcomes in Geography books, evidence a broad and balanced geography curriculum and demonstrate children's acquisition of identified key knowledge relating to each of the identified national curriculum strands, as appropriate to key stage; locational knowledge, place knowledge and human and physical geography. This is in addition to the development and application of key skills.

As children progress throughout the school, they develop a deep knowledge, understanding and appreciation of their local area and its place within the wider geographical context.

Children are to retain prior-learning and explicitly make connections between what they have previously learned and what they are currently learning.

The curriculum was reduced to three lessons per unit during 20/21. This enabled teachers to utilise gained time to focus on basic skills in Reading, Writing and Maths that had regressed or not. Due to this, there will be some gaps in learning, however, across the year, teachers sought to ensure that the Geography National Curriculum objectives were still covered during the lessons in each of the three units studied by each year group.

Those that were in school or accessing our remote learning programme would have covered the learning, unfortunately, many children and parents during the lockdown and remote learning chose to focus on and complete Maths and English sessions over other wider curriculum subjects.