



Westfield Infant School Spotlight on Geography.



What is Geography and how is it taught?

At Westfield Infant School Geography is taught via the Primary Knowledge Curriculum (PKC). The PKC Geography curriculum is knowledge rich. The knowledge the children will gain has been carefully specified, ordered coherently and builds over time. As children work through our geography curriculum they will know more, understand more about the world around them.

A good geographical understanding relies on firm foundations of knowledge and skills. We have a Geography progression map in place showing the substantive and disciplinary knowledge and how these progress across the year groups. This curriculum structure helps pupils to deepen their understanding of physical and human geographical processes, fostering curiosity and fascination for the world we live in.

The knowledge children will be taught has been identified, in each year group, in each unit and in each lesson. As children work through the curriculum they will know more and understand more about their local area, the UK, Europe and the World. Pupils will develop a geographical knowledge and understanding in a way that builds on their prior knowledge, allowing them to make meaningful connections and gain an understanding of how our world is connected.

How do we support all learners to access the subject?

Each year our geography curriculum begins with a 'Spatial Sense' unit that explicitly teaches geographical skills such as locating places on a map, positioning items on a map, using symbols in a key. The spatial sense units for each year group are designed to explicitly teach skills which will then be used in context throughout the rest of the year as children apply those skills to learn more about people, places and the environment. The spatial sense units build on prior knowledge and requires children to undertake fieldwork and use observational skills to study the geography of their school and the surrounding environment. The aim of the spatial sense units is to build children's geographical literacy so that they are able to use an atlas and maps to answer questions they may have about the world.

Children with SEND and EAL are supported in all lessons in numerous ways. For example, appropriate resources are used and where necessary they are adapted and modified. Quality first teaching ensures that teaching is inclusive for all and enables children to access the learning. Key vocabulary is also an integral part of each lesson and is used frequently. Symbols and visuals are also used to support all pupils and additional adult support is used where necessary.

Early Years Foundation Stage Pupils are introduced to Geography through their PKC topics and experience a range of child-initiated and adult-directed activities. Globes,

atlases and maps are accessible within the continuous provision. Pupils experience the seasons first hand during outdoor learning.

How do we assess the children's knowledge and understanding in this subject?

Children are assessed in Geography using both formative and summative assessments. Teachers use questioning and observations throughout every lesson to ensure every child is making progress. This information allows teachers to adapt their lessons as necessary to support all learners. Multiple choice quizzes are used at the end of a unit of work to establish what knowledge the children may need to revisit in order to ensure that it is secure.

As subject leader monitoring takes place regularly via book trawls, lesson observations and the pupil voice is also gathered so that teachers are able to understand what our pupils find difficult and which areas they feel they need more support in.

How do we involve parents and carers in this subject?

Parents can be informed about Geography by Dojo posts. Knowledge organisers are sent home for each unit of work, so parents have a good understanding of the content and vocabulary that is being taught and they can support at home.

From the Spring Term EYFS pupils have Everywhere Bear to take home and take on an adventure.

How do we promote wider opportunities for this subject area?

Pupils get the opportunity to explore the school grounds to observe and discuss the human and physical features of our school grounds.

EYFS are experience outdoor learning each day. There is particular focus on the features of the changing seasons and weather.

Year groups will plan trips as appropriate and ensure full advantage is taken to use our extensive school grounds.