

Adlington St Paul's Primary School

Geography Knowledge & Skills Progression

Curriculum Intent

At St Paul's, geography teaching inspires pupils to explore God's world with curiosity and care. Through local, national and global studies, pupils develop understanding of human and physical environments, their interconnections, and the responsibility we share as global citizens to care for creation.

Curriculum Implementation

Geography is taught through carefully sequenced enquiry-led units. Pupils explore Human and Physical geography, Weather systems, the United Kingdom and the wider World. They develop skills in map use, atlases and globes, compass points and grid references, fieldwork and the interpretation of photographs. Vocabulary is explicitly taught and revisited, and regular fieldwork provides first-hand experience of places and environments.

Curriculum Impact

By the end of Year 6, pupils can locate and describe places in the UK and the wider world, explain physical and human processes, compare contrasting locations, carry out fieldwork enquiries, interpret maps and photographs, and communicate findings using accurate geographical vocabulary.

Human Geography

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Talk about people and places in school and home.	Identify local human features (homes, shops, roads).	Describe towns, transport and land use.	Explain settlements and population.	Explain industry, employment and urban/rural.	Explore trade, economy and migration.	Analyse global human geography and sustainability.

Physical Geography

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Notice weather and seasons.	Identify physical features (hill, river, coast).	Describe rivers, coasts and weather patterns.	Explain physical processes (erosion, volcanoes).	Explore mountains, rivers and landscapes.	Study climate zones and biomes.	Explain environmental change and climate impact.

Weather

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Talk about hot, cold, rainy and windy.	Identify seasons and daily weather.	Record simple weather observations.	Measure rainfall and temperature.	Compare weather in UK and world regions.	Explain climate patterns and extreme weather.	Analyse climate change and global impact.

World

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Talk about places children have visited.	Name continents and oceans.	Locate continents and major countries.	Locate world regions using atlases.	Compare global regions and cultures.	Study global issues and interdependence.	Analyse global geography and citizenship.

United Kingdom

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Name own town and school.	Locate home on simple map.	Locate UK countries and capitals.	Describe UK regions and counties.	Compare regions within the UK.	Study national patterns and issues.	Analyse UK human and physical geography.

Comparing and Contrasting

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Talk about differences between places.	Compare classroom and playground.	Compare local area with another place.	Compare UK with another country.	Explain similarities and differences globally.	Analyse developed and developing countries.	Evaluate global inequalities.

Maps, Atlases and Globes

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Look at simple maps and globes.	Use simple classroom maps.	Use globes and atlases to find places.	Use keys and symbols on maps.	Use OS maps and scale.	Use atlases independently.	Use latitude and longitude confidently.

Compass Points and Grid References

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Use directional language (near/far).	Use N, S, E, W directions.	Use simple coordinates.	Use four-figure grid references.	Use six-figure grid references.	Use 16-point compass.	Navigate using maps and compass.

Fieldwork (including maps)

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Explore school environment.	Draw simple maps of classroom.	Carry out simple local surveys.	Collect data and make maps.	Design local enquiries and analyse data.	Conduct independent fieldwork.	Present and evaluate fieldwork findings.

Images

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Talk about pictures of places.	Use photos to describe places.	Use aerial photos to identify	Compare photos of environments.	Analyse changes using photos.	Interpret satellite images.	Use photos as evidence in enquiries.

Year 7 Transition Summary

By the end of Year 6, pupils can confidently use maps, atlases and globes to locate places, apply compass points and grid references, carry out geographical fieldwork enquiries, interpret photographs and data, and explain human and physical processes at local, national and global scales. They enter Year 7 ready to deepen their understanding of complex geographical systems, sustainability and global citizenship.

Vocabulary

EYFS

Core words

place, world, home, school, near, far, map, journey

Weather words

sunny, rainy, windy, hot, cold, season

People & places

family, community, town, country

Year 1

Human geography

house, shop, road, school, town, village

Physical geography

river, hill, forest, beach, sea

Weather

season, autumn, winter, spring, summer, temperature

Map skills

map, globe, direction, left, right

Comparing

same, different

Year 2

World knowledge

continent, ocean, country

United Kingdom

England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, capital city

Human geography

transport, jobs, land use

Physical geography

coast, cliff, waterfall

Map skills

atlas, key, symbol

Comparing

similar, contrast

Year 3

Physical processes

erosion, volcano, earthquake, river, source, mouth

Human geography

settlement, population

World knowledge

region, hemisphere

Map skills

grid reference, aerial photograph

Fieldwork

survey, data, record

Year 4

Physical geography

mountain, valley, landscape

Human geography

industry, employment, rural, urban

UK knowledge

county, region

Map skills

Ordnance Survey, scale, legend

Comparing

difference, similarity

Year 5

Physical geography

climate, biome, vegetation zone

Human geography

trade, economy, migration

World knowledge

latitude, longitude, time zone

Map skills

six-figure grid reference, compass points

Environmental

sustainability, conservation

Year 6

Physical geography

climate change, environmental impact

Human geography

globalisation, development, inequality

World knowledge

interdependence, global citizenship

Map & fieldwork

enquiry, analyse, interpret, conclude

Comparing

evaluate, justify