

## Askwith Primary School

### Geography rationale

Geography is a dynamic subject because the world, and our understanding of it is continually changing. Living in an area of outstanding natural beauty means that it is our duty at Askwith Primary School to ensure the children have a strong understanding the geography of their immediate locality. Encouraging children to understand the geography of their local area and to spend time outdoors is also proven to improve mental health.

"Geographers are concerned with the local and the global. They are interested in how local, regional and national decisions have global impacts. They are interested in the relationships between regions and countries, for example in exploring trade and their interdependence on each other."

*(Ofsted, 2021)*

As such, we have carefully planned the curriculum to build knowledge throughout the school and enable pupils to undertake a global study in upper key stage two, where they consider how countries all link together and trade with one another.

The fundamental role of geography at Askwith Primary School lies in helping children to understand the world, its environments and places near and far, and the processes that create and affect them. It will provide children with the necessary cultural capital to become global citizens, with an awareness of current world events. Purposeful and natural links to Fundamental British Values, SMSC and global themes are an integral part of our curriculum and are threaded through the geography curriculum. The geography curriculum enables children to take on the role of a geographer: exploring, discovering and beginning to make sense of the world around them. At Askwith Primary School, we believe that all children's education begins in Early Years. Our curriculum is aligned to the Early Years Framework and shows the sequential steps of essential knowledge acquired from Reception to Year 6. Our curriculum offer for geography begins in Early Years.

'Children develop quickly in the early years and a child's experiences between birth and age five have a major impact on their future life chances.'

*EYFS Statutory Framework, 2021*

### Why this? Why now?

The whole school long term plan is designed in year groups, but can equally be used for mixed age classes. Geography is taught in a block at least once per term.

- UK and surrounding seas (year 1)

This unit of knowledge is critical for the children to build their knowledge of the world around them. For them to know about the world, they have to know the location of the place where they live including the countries and capital cities. This unit of knowledge will be taught every year to year 1 and will not be a rolling programme.

- Continents and oceans (year 2)

This unit of knowledge will build on the connected knowledge from year 1 of the UK and the children will learn about the wider world and the continents and oceans. It is essential to teach this unit in the Autumn Term because the children will use this locational knowledge of the continents as a starting point in all subsequent units of geography throughout the year.

- The Wharfe Valley and San Francisco (year 3 and 4)

San Francisco was chosen as key place because the children will learn about a region of North America and San Francisco sits on the most famous earthquake fault line; The San Andreas Fault. It is also a contrasting place to Jamaica, which the children will have learnt about in Key Stage One, meaning that the children are building their knowledge of a wide range of places around the world.

### Knowledge in geography

Geography provides opportunities for children to learn about their locality as well as places around the world. Children are taught what they need to know, the declarative knowledge, and how to use what they know, the procedural knowledge. They are given opportunities to study locations, places, environments and human and physical features, examining the distribution of these features. Whether it is the distribution of local post boxes or volcanoes globally, studying distribution will allow children to notice geographical patterns, leading them to consider the reasons for and the impacts of these and to ask further questions.

**Substantive knowledge** in geography is based on the knowledge of four key elements of geographical understanding. These are:

<b>Location</b>	Develop children's knowledge of the location of significant places, both terrestrial and marine.
<b>Place</b>	Know the similarities and differences of significant places, both terrestrial and marine.
<b>Human and physical features</b>	Know the processes that provide the human and physical features of the world, including how these are interdependent and change over time.
<b>Skills and fieldwork</b>	Know how to collect, analyse and communicate geographical data gathered through experiences of fieldwork. Know how to interpret a range of geographical information and present this in a variety of ways, including through maps, numerical skills and written formats.

**Disciplinary knowledge** in geography is the process of enabling children to use their substantive knowledge of the world around them to make links between and across different areas of the curriculum. Geography knowledge will equip the children with the ability to explain how and why places are changing and to predict any future changes. They will also apply this knowledge to explain what could and should change in the future of the world in which they live; providing them with the opportunity to become effective global citizens.

### **Reading opportunities in geography**

Reading underpins our entire curriculum. Key texts and pieces of information are carefully selected ensuring that the content and reading age are appropriate. Key texts are on display and made available for the children to access during daily 'reading for pleasure' time.

### **SMSC in Geography**

*Geography education encourages pupils to explore how places have been changed by the contexts and processes that have shaped them. It helps them to understand the complex ways in which communities and societies are linked and to appreciate the diversity of people's backgrounds. Geography also helps pupils to understand society better. Appreciating diversity encourages positive relationships and shared values. It promotes tolerance and partnership, within local and wider communities.'* Geographical Association

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural attributes are developed in our pupils throughout the geography curriculum:

**Spiritual** education is threaded through all elements of geography. The fundamental role of geography is for the children to know about the world around them. Through building this knowledge, children have opportunities to explore their own feelings about the people, culture, place and environments studied.

**Moral** education in geography is explored through learning about human and physical features of locations and how human features affect the physical features. For example, do the benefits of deforestation outweigh the environmental impact?

**Social** education in geography teaches children how different people live around the world and how their lives may have similarities and differences. In addition to this, children are provided with opportunities to discuss and debate geographical issues, developing their personal social skills and confidence.

**Cultural** education is a fundamental part of the geography curriculum, primarily through the component of place knowledge. All children are taught about how different cultures live and compare this to their own lives. Children are given the opportunity to explore the multicultural societies within Britain and the wider world.

### **Enhancements in Geography**

At Askwith School we have a carefully planned rolling programme of enhancements to ensure that all year groups are exposed to a wide range of opportunities that enhance children's knowledge and cultural capital in all subjects. For example, visits to Otley Chevin involve studying the geography of the local area is KS2 and the children in EYFS take walks around the village to become familiar with our local environment.

### **Geography improvement priorities**

Geography will be monitored throughout 2024-2025 to identify any emerging priorities.

**Reviewed: September 2024**