

At Whitehouse Primary School geography learning teaches children about the world in which they live and how it has changed over time.

Our Geography Curriculum focuses on acquiring facts and knowledge as well as developing geographical skills. We teach children about larger global concepts such as humankind, place, significance, processes and change.



The teaching of Geography follows the National Curriculum and is integrated within our topics as part of our 'Cornerstones Curriculum.' Great emphasis is placed upon acquiring geographical knowledge and vocabulary.

The geography element of our school curriculum aims to inspire pupils with a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. Our geography curriculum enables children to develop a sense of place, whilst exploring, investigating and understanding the man made and natural processes that impact on our planet. We aim to equip pupils with knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes.

As pupils progress, their growing knowledge about the world should help them to deepen their understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes, and of the formation and use of landscapes and environments. We want our children to gain confidence and practical experiences of geographical knowledge, understanding and skills that explain how the Earth's features at different scales are shaped, interconnected and change over time. We achieve this through a variety of day trips, residential trips and local field work, exploring the immediate vicinity of the school.

## Early Years Foundation Stage

At Whitehouse Primary School the children love learning about their surroundings right from the Early Years Foundation Stage. They begin by looking at their school surroundings and environment. Here they investigate areas they like and dislike and what they could do to improve their local area. Children begin to discover where their environment fits in with the wider world as they look at simple atlases and globes.



## Key Stage 1

In Key Stage 1 skills are further developed. Building on EYFS knowledge of their own environment, children start to learn the names of key places in the UK beyond their immediate environment. Children also learn the names of the world's oceans and continents. Children begin to compare places in the UK with a place outside of the UK. This builds on EYFS knowledge and understanding of the world, people and communities.



Children can apply the skills of observing similarities and differences to places as well as people and begin to learn about the physical and human features of geography. They begin to use maps to locate places and name features using keys and symbols. Children also begin to look at how the environment has changed over time.

## Lower Key Stage 2

Building on KS1 knowledge of the UK, children begin to explore more of the world, understand how the world has zones and the significance of those zones. Locating places and features accurately on maps also becomes a focus. Children develop vocabulary relating to physical and human geographical features from KS1. They begin to develop the skills of comparing regions, by focusing on specific features. Children focus on comparing regions of the UK in depth and start to look at an area outside of the UK. Children have a stronger understanding of the difference between physical and human geography. They use more precise vocabulary, explaining the processes of physical and human geography and their significance. They learn more about extreme weather, the processes involved in the causes and effects of extreme weather, as well as beginning to understand the impact of humans on the earth. Children continue to develop their map skills. They will be able to identify features on a map through the use of symbols and keys. Children also learn about the different types of mountains and begin to use fieldwork skills to monitor and explain patterns in human and physical features.



## Upper Key Stage 2

Children begin to explore North and South America using maps to find these locations. Children use their knowledge of longitude, latitude, coordinates and indexes to locate places. Children develop their analytical skills by comparing areas of the UK with areas outside of the UK. They will have a deeper knowledge of diverse places, people, resources, natural, and human environments. They can make links to places outside of the UK and where they live. Children are encouraged to conduct independent research, asking and answering questions.



Children deepen their understanding of the difference between physical and human geography. They can explain the terminology of both aspects of geography with a range of examples. They spend time exploring human geography and the impact humans have on the world. They focus on trade links, resources and the distribution of resources around the world. Children build on their map skills by communicating locations through grid references and coordinates. They also explain what makes a good map symbol and why. Children focus on observing and recording the changes of human features over time, for example trade patterns.

## Impact

As children progress through Whitehouse Primary School they develop a deep knowledge, understanding and appreciation for their local area and its place within the wider geographical context. Children will deepen their understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes and how this affects landscapes and environments. Children learn about careers related to geography from members of the local and wider community with specialist skills and knowledge through visits and outings, ensuring that all children are well prepared for their next steps in education and learning.



*"The study of geography is about more than just memorizing places on a map. It's about understanding the complexity of our world, appreciating the diversity of cultures that exists across continents. And in the end, it's about using all that knowledge to help bridge divides and bring people together."*

Barack Obama

