



Geography Curriculum Statement



'The study of geography is about more than just memorising 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**

At Vallis First School, our Geography curriculum aims to ignite a curiosity in all children to deeply explore and learn about the world in which they live, and their place within it. Through our curriculum children will increase and develop their geographical skills, concepts, knowledge and attitudes, whilst making links to other areas of learning like History and Art. As children move through the school they will develop an interest in their local environment, the United Kingdom and the wider world, arousing their curiosity further and their motivation to learn. Teaching will develop and enable children to use their skills in fieldwork, map creation and interpretation, and understanding how different parts of the world are connected.

Intent

At Vallis First School, we believe that Geography helps to provoke and provide answers to questions about the human and physical aspects of the world.

- We provide hands-on, creative learning using a range of quality resources, an interesting learning environment and the local area.
- We encourage children to make links to other areas of learning to deepen their experiences and understanding and increase their fascination of the world's diverse cultures and landscapes.
- At the beginning of each unit, children are encouraged to share their existing knowledge through question-and-answer time to gain insight to coverage.
- Children will have experience in observation, research, analysing, collecting data, making comparisons and carrying out fieldwork activities.
- Children will begin to understand the complexity of our world, gaining insight about the diversity of cultures, natural and human environments that exist across the continents and understand that, through time and human physical processes, our world continues to change.
- Children will recognise the importance of care and responsibility for the quality of the natural and human environment in our changing world.
- We believe our children will form a secure foundation in Geography that will support further lessons in middle school and college and give rise to geographical experts who will inform future generations on the conservation of our world.

Implementation

Geography at Vallis First School is taught in units across a two-year rolling programme. In Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 each unit is taught every other half term. In the Early Years Foundation Stage, Geography is taught throughout the year through stories, rhymes, exploration, and natural and incidental events. Teachers from each Key Stage work together to create the planning, considering progression and skills coverage as required within the National Curriculum. In Early Years, we teach Geography through the Early Years Foundation Stage. We start to explore the world through the related Early Learning Goals (ELGs) for understanding the world. We begin looking at our immediate environment using observation and maps. We use stories and non-fiction texts to talk about similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries.

We plan to ensure that knowledge 'sticks' by creating explicit knowledge we would like our children to learn. During each series of lessons within a unit, children revisit their learning through our 'Flashback Four' and 'Quick Quizzing' questioning that revisits and rehearses our sticky knowledge to ensure that substantive knowledge is embedded. We are fortunate that Vallis First School is situated at the heart of

Frome where children can explore their sense of place through real life observations and experiences. We give children opportunities to research further at home through linked homework tasks.

Impact

Outcomes in Geography are recorded in individual books in Key Stage 2, in individual books and a floor book in Key Stage 1, and photographs and quotes in a floor book in the Early Years Foundation Stage. All classrooms across the school have good quality learning walls where children's quotes and examples of work show evidence of key knowledge of a broad and balanced geography curriculum. At the end of each unit, children will evidence their learning by answering core knowledge questions independently. Additionally, we also use child voice to explore our curriculum and its impact from the children's perspectives. 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 will:

- Know and understand that geography is when we learn about people and places and the relationships between them.
- Have developed the geographical knowledge and skills to help them explore, navigate and understand the world around them and their place in it.
- Be exposed to many global issues and explored how places and communities are similar or different to their own in Frome and in the county of Somerset.
- Geography books and final project pieces will demonstrate the children's understanding of key knowledge, skills and vocabulary.
- Have a curiosity and fascination of the world around them; preparing them to be competent geographers at Upper Key Stage two and beyond.

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