

Geography– Intent, Implementation and Impact

“Geography is a subject which holds the key to our future.”

Michael Palin

Geography - Intent

At Thwaites School we offer a structure and sequence of lessons with the skills required to meet the aims of the National Curriculum. The content allows for a broader, deeper understanding of the four areas of geography identified in the curriculum. It will develop contextual knowledge of the location of globally significant places and understanding of the processes that give rise to key physical and human geographical features of the world, along with how they bring about variation and change over time. We intend to develop children’s curiosity and a fascination of the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. There are many opportunities for children to investigate places around the world as well as physical and human processes. We also aim to develop children’s geographical skills linked to their locality, providing children with the field skills to interact in a meaningful way with their community and environment. We provide engaging lessons which are intended to improve children’s geographical vocabulary, map skills and geographical facts and provide opportunities for consolidation, challenge and variety to ensure interest and progress in the subject. We aim to produce well- rounded individuals by providing our children with opportunities to expand their cultural capital and experiences of the world.

Geography – Implementation

Children are introduced to geographical skills such as map reading in KS1, when children begin to use maps and recognise physical and human features to do with the local area. These skills are then built upon as children progress through the key stage by using maps to explore the continents and oceans of the world. It is also in KS1 when children will begin to compare where they live to places outside of Europe and ask and answer geographical questions. In KS2, map skills are developed further using digital maps, more complex keys and symbols. These skills are further developed through physical education lessons, in which children learn how to use complex ordnance survey maps and compasses to complete orienteering course set up across both rural and urban locations. In KS2 children further develop their use of fieldwork skills. Through revisiting and consolidating skills, lessons enable children build on prior knowledge alongside introducing new skills and challenge. All children expand on their skills in local knowledge, place knowledge, human and physical

geography, geographical skills and fieldwork. Across both key stages, we revisit two Golden Threads, 'Water Studies' and 'Trade' allowing children to develop a deep knowledge and understanding of these geographical themes. Children have a range of opportunities to experience geography through practical engaging tasks beyond the classroom. We support learning with trips to inspire our children and widen their cultural experiences. Each stage of the curriculum, throughout all year groups, involves a geography field trip to a variety of locations including rivers, beaches, lakes, towns and cities to engage in hands-on, real-life geographical learning. End of unit assessments clearly establish whether outcomes have been met.

Geography - Impact

At Thwaites School, children will use geographical vocabulary accurately and understand the different strands of geography, with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes. Children will also begin to make relevant links from geography to other curriculum subjects, such as history and science. They will improve their enquiry skills and inquisitiveness about the world around them, and their impact on the world. All children will realise that they have choices to make in the world, developing a positive commitment to the environment and the future of the planet, supported by school pupils who have taken up the role of 'Environment Champion'. Children will become competent in collecting, analysing and communicating a range of data gathered. They will be able to interpret a range of sources of geographical information and they will communicate geographical information in a variety of ways. Children in the school will be able to speak confidently about their geography learning, skills and knowledge.

