

## Geography

**“Geography is a living, breathing, subject, constantly adapting itself to change. It is dynamic & relevant. For me, Geography is a great adventure with a purpose”.**

**Michael Palin.**



**Geography threads: Location, Sustainability and making connections and comparisons.**

### Geography Curriculum Rationale at Dorchester Primary

Earth is changing rapidly, faster than at any other time in recorded history, and people are more ‘connected’ than ever. Through **engagement with global issues** such as pollution, climate change and pandemics, children can make choices that can improve the world. Geography is about developing children’s knowledge, **understanding and appreciation of the world’s diverse people, places and environments**. Our curriculum helps them understand how places are constantly changing, why they are important and how they are connected. We want children who will ask questions and be critical and creative thinkers who feel empowered to take care of our planet. Ultimately, we want the children attending Dorchester Primary to become well-rounded, independent and profound learners.

Our curriculum progressively builds vocabulary and concepts over time (see Geography Progression Document). Children explore and find answers to ambitious enquiry questions, which are developed year upon year through **3 main threads: location, sustainability and making connections and comparisons**. These questions promote enquiry, research, discussion and debate as well as develop children’s knowledge and understanding across topics. We strive to keep our themes, topics and enquiry questions evolving and relevant to the children and current events on Earth. Geography lessons are built around the **DPS pillars** and teachers plan opportunities for children to build upon their skills and knowledge in both areas.

#### **Children will:**

- Have the opportunity to write in Geography in a variety of genres
- Use high quality resources to support their learning
- Present their learning to a high standard in Geography books
- Find best ways for themselves to learn and remember answers to enquiry questions
- Participate in partnered talk during every lesson
- Learn and use key geographical vocabulary correctly
- Work collaboratively with others and communicate effectively

#### **Teachers will:**

- Build lessons around the DPS Pillars and the Geography threads.
- Recap answers to previous enquiry questions at the start of every Geography lesson
- Follow the schools’ progression document.
- Create enquiry questions that are open-ended and promote high quality discussions and debate.
- Share enquiry questions and key vocabulary in advance with families.
- Promote enjoyment and progress through planning exciting, challenging and engaging learning opportunities for all.
- Plan for half termly assessments through regular low stakes quizzing, reference to the learning questions and the KWLW grids as well as clearly planned formative assessment opportunities throughout each lesson.
- Produce clear, up to date Knowledge Organisers which are shared with the children and referred to constantly.
- Ensure high quality resources and texts are used to support the teaching of Geography.

#### **The Geography Lead/Leaders will:**

- Routinely (half termly) carry out book looks of children across the school, abilities and backgrounds to have an understanding of outcomes for all.
- Check KOs are up to date and used correctly.
- Half termly, assess children’s knowledge and understanding through questioning children using the Enquiry Questions and desirable answers.
- Carry out lesson observations yearly across the school (or SLT will feedback any lessons they have seen).