



Geography Curriculum Intent Statement



At Westacre Middle School, we aim to foster a life-long love of learning, through adopting a practical and cross-curricular approach. Our Creative Curriculum aims to deliver a world class education that will equip our children with the skills required to be independent and responsible citizens. The curriculum matches our whole school vision, which fosters an atmosphere of inspiration, challenge and achievement. “Inspire. Challenge. Achieve”

Why do we teach Geography?

Geography inspires a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with pupils for the rest of their lives. It equips 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 helps them to deepen their understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes, and of the formation and use of landscapes and environments. Geographical knowledge, understanding and skills provide the frameworks and approaches that explain how the Earth's features at different scales are shaped, interconnected and change over time.

Key Concepts in Geography

Key concepts tie together the subject topics into meaningful schema within our skills progression maps. The same concepts are explored in a wide breadth of topics across all year groups. Through this 'forwards-and-backwards engineering' of the curriculum, students return to the same concepts over and over and gradually build understanding of them. In Geography, the key concepts are Locational and Positional Knowledge, Human and Physical Geography, Geographical Enquiry and Skills and Fieldwork.

Knowledge Categories in Geography

Knowledge categories in each subject give students a way of expressing their understanding of the key concepts and linking their learning across the year groups. In Geography, the knowledge categories are Location, Position, Inspirational People, Human, Physical, Enquiry, Careers, Health and Safety and Fieldwork.

SMSC in Geography

Spiritual development in Geography

Geography is the study of real people in real places which means that it constantly links and develops students spiritually. For example, when looking at natural disasters, a fascination of the world around them is developed, whilst the study of population, gives students an appreciation of the world around them. The study of population and globalisation also allows students to reflect on their own beliefs and others, and the impacts a global world has on these. Throughout, topics like these enable students to reflect and share their own experiences and the diverse nature of our classes really enhances discussion and debate in this area.

Moral development in Geography

Geography is a subject that lends itself to investigations, debates and a consideration of different viewpoints and most geographical topics have a moral element to them. For example; when considering physical topics such as rivers, flooding and coasts; consideration is given to how much these issues that arise are man-made and are due to exploitation. Similarly in the tourism, fashion and development topics, debate centres on the role of humans and how ethical our actions are. For example, the allocation of aid, exploitative tourism and other moral issues that occur in LEDC's and MEDC's are topic areas for debate. Geography allows students to see and explore consequences of mismanagement, and also to look at the situations from different points of view. Debates allocate students different roles in decision making processes which help develop empathy and appreciate the opinions of others.

Social development in Geography

Social development is a focus in Geography and looks to enhance and develop students throughout their time at Westacre. Similarly peer assessment and feedback further enhance students' social skills. Questions and debates encourage the scenario of 'what would you do' in the situation relating to various topics in Geography, encouraging students to co-operate and resolve conflict.

Cultural development in Geography

Our Geography lessons at Westacre look at various cultures and their influences across the world as well as more local studies and students' cultural awareness is developed as a result. Work within the subject allows them to express their opinions and communicate their knowledge in various ways. Within Human Geography in particular the topics lend themselves to exploration of their own identities and others.

Curriculum Drivers

How we promote Communication: So much of Geography is communicating. Often this is a written form, but could also be via discussion, debating and justification. Students are encouraged to verbalise thoughts before writing in order to consolidate their thinking, to convince others of their thought processes and justifications and to then formalise their work in writing.

How we promote Aspirations: Geography seeks to make sense of world and its people, places and environments through explanatory relationships. Geography plays an important role in helping pupils to understand their world, their role in it and the responsibilities that come with it. We aim to promote careers through our Geography teaching. For example, when teaching about Antarctica during Year 5's topic of Explorers, the children are taught about the four stations Britain has which study the environment, its changes, the impact of climate change and environmental hazards. During Year 6's topic of What a Wonderful World, the children try their hand at cartography.

How we promote Diversity: 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 exist across continents and using all that knowledge to help bridge divides and bring people together.