Newhall Junior School

Geography

Intent

At Newhall Junior School, our Geography curriculum is designed to provide a coherent, ambitious and inclusive programme that develops pupils' knowledge of diverse places, people, resources and environments. We aim to foster curiosity, enquiry and critical thinking about the world and pupils' place within it.

We want pupils to:

- develop a secure knowledge of physical and human geography
- understand how places and environments are connected locally, nationally and globally
- use geographical vocabulary accurately and confidently
- develop fieldwork and map-reading skills to investigate the world around them
- understand environmental responsibility and global sustainability
- appreciate the diversity of cultures, communities and landscapes

We explicitly build cultural capital through experiences beyond the classroom, including fieldwork, educational visits and community engagement, ensuring that all pupils, including disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND, can access high-quality learning opportunities.

Our curriculum is carefully sequenced from Year 3 to Year 6, enabling pupils to build upon prior learning, make meaningful connections across topics and apply their knowledge in new contexts. Through their study of Geography, pupils develop an understanding of physical and human processes, environmental responsibility and global interdependence, preparing them for life in modern Britain and beyond.

Implementation

Newhall Junior School whole school curriculum map

Geography Long-Term Plan

	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3
Year 3	**Geography: Climate and Weather** Why is climate important?	**Geography: Our World** Where on Earth are we?	**Geography: Coasts** Do we like to be besides the seaside?
Year 4	**Geography: The Americas** Can you come on a Great American Road Trip?	**Geography: Rivers and the Water Cycle** How does the water go round and round?	**Geography: Earthquakes and Volcanoes** How does the Earth shake, rattle and roll?
Year 5	**Geography: Changes in our Local Environment** How is our country changing?	**Geography: Europe – A Study of the Alpine Region** Where should we go on holiday?	**Geography: Journeys – Clothes** Where does all our stuff come from?
Year 6	**Geography: South America – The Amazon** What is life like in the Amazon?	**Geography: Global Warming and Climate Change** Are we damaging our World?	**Geography: Our World in the Future** How will our world look in the future?

We implement our intent through carefully mapped long-term and medium-term plans that are fully aligned with the National Curriculum and designed to ensure clear progression in geographical knowledge, skills and vocabulary across Key Stage 2.

Key features of our Geography curriculum include:

- Activation of prior knowledge at the start of each unit.
- Regular retrieval practice to strengthen retention and long-term understanding.
- Enquiry-based learning through carefully planned key questions.
- "Digging Deeper" opportunities that promote critical thinking and provide challenge for all learners.
- Explicit teaching and revisiting of geographical vocabulary and concepts.
- Fieldwork opportunities that develop practical geographical skills and first-hand experiences.

Fieldwork is embedded as a core component of the curriculum and is supported by robust risk assessment and safeguarding procedures. Teachers use effective questioning, discussion and adaptive teaching strategies to ensure all pupils, including those with SEND and disadvantaged pupils, can access and succeed within the curriculum. Staff receive ongoing professional development to support high-quality teaching, inclusion and assessment.

Assessment for learning is continuous and informs future planning through questioning, discussion, observations and work scrutiny. Digital technology, including Google Earth and other mapping tools, is used to enhance learning and provide virtual fieldwork opportunities where appropriate, helping pupils develop a deeper understanding of places and environments at local, national and global scales.

Impact

The impact of our Geography curriculum is reflected in pupils' outcomes, engagement and attitudes towards learning. Learning Journey books demonstrate a broad and ambitious curriculum, showcasing clear progression in knowledge, skills and understanding over time. Pupils confidently articulate their learning using accurate geographical vocabulary and demonstrate an understanding of local, national and global contexts.

Through fieldwork, educational visits and wider curriculum experiences, pupils develop enriched cultural capital and a deeper appreciation of the world around them. Monitoring shows that disadvantaged pupils and pupils with SEND achieve well and are supported to access both the curriculum and appropriate challenge. Work scrutiny, pupil voice and assessment evidence demonstrate that pupils retain key geographical knowledge, apply skills confidently and make meaningful connections across their learning.

By the end of Key Stage 2, pupils are well prepared for secondary Geography, equipped with the knowledge, skills and curiosity to explore, understand and positively contribute to an increasingly interconnected world.