



Geography at Newbold School

Intent

At Newbold School, our Geography curriculum aims to inspire a lifelong curiosity and fascination with the world. We aim to empower pupils to explore and understand their local environment and the wider world, recognising the responsibility we have as stewards of the Earth. We are committed to providing a rich and purposeful platform for pupils to develop their knowledge of places, people, and the natural and human processes that shape the world. Through our teaching, we aim to nurture a sense of wonder and responsibility for the Earth, encouraging pupils to think critically about their role in shaping a sustainable future. By studying Geography, pupils will explore the relationships between people and places, gain locational knowledge, and understand the significance of key physical and human geographical features.

At Newbold, we ensure that pupils have opportunities to connect with their local community, appreciating its unique characteristics while exploring the similarities and differences of environments across the world. Through hands-on fieldwork, map skills, and practical investigations, pupils will build the confidence to analyse, question, and make sense of the world around them.

Our Geography curriculum is designed to be inclusive and accessible for all pupils, fostering a love for learning and a passion for discovery. By equipping pupils with the knowledge, skills, and understanding to think geographically, we aim to empower them to be informed, active, and responsible global citizens who are prepared to navigate and influence the complex world of the future.

Implementation

Geography is taught explicitly in Years 1 to 6 for one hour per week during half a term, every term. Units are blocked to allow pupils to focus on topics in depth, starting with their immediate environment, such as their school and local area, before expanding to regions of the UK and the wider world. A clear progression of skills ensures that pupils build on prior learning and develop their knowledge systematically. Cross-curricular links with subjects such as Maths, Writing, and

additional foundation subjects are woven into the curriculum, enriching the learning experience.

Fieldwork and practical activities are central to our Geography curriculum. Pupils engage in hands-on learning through local area studies, conducting observations, surveys, investigations, and field sketches. The use of tools such as maps and compasses enhances these experiences, while educational visits and guest speakers further enrich pupils' understanding. At the start of each unit, pupils review prior learning and share their existing knowledge about the topic. At Newbold School, we place a strong emphasis on developing subject-specific academic vocabulary, enabling pupils to articulate their knowledge and understanding with confidence and precision. All children have regular access to Forest School, where they engage with nature first hand, fostering a deeper understanding of their local environment and enhancing their geographical knowledge and fieldwork skills through practical, outdoor learning experiences.

Staff are supported through access to high-quality resources, such as B&C Educational materials, Digimaps, and guidance from the Geographical Association. Regular professional development, staff discussions, and moderation sessions ensure that teachers maintain high levels of expertise in delivering the curriculum. Lessons include effective modelling and clear success criteria to help pupils achieve their learning intentions. Misconceptions are addressed promptly, and differentiation ensures that all pupils can access and succeed within the curriculum. Assessment for Learning strategies, including self and peer assessment, inform planning and support the continual development of pupils' skills and understanding.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), Geography is integrated into the broader 'Understanding the World' curriculum. Pupils explore their local environment through first-hand experiences, such as visiting the field, forest, park, and other local trips. They learn to identify features of their surroundings and compare these to other environments through stories, role play, and small-world activities. EYFS pupils are encouraged to observe, question, and actively explore their world, laying a strong foundation for their geographical learning journey.

Impact

The impact of our Geography curriculum at Newbold School is that pupils develop a deep understanding of the world around them, from their local environment to global contexts. They leave our school with the knowledge, skills, and curiosity to explore and interpret the complexities of human and physical geography. Pupils are confident in using geographical language and tools, such as maps and compasses,

and demonstrate an ability to think critically about the relationships between people, places, and the environment.

Our curriculum ensures that pupils meet or exceed age-related expectations in Geography. They make sustained progress, building on prior knowledge and developing a secure understanding of locational knowledge, human and physical geography, and geographical skills. This is evident in the quality of their work, their ability to articulate their learning, and their enthusiasm for the subject.

Fieldwork opportunities and practical investigations enhance pupils' understanding and bring Geography to life, fostering a sense of wonder and responsibility for the Earth. Pupils develop an awareness of their role in shaping a sustainable future and an appreciation for diverse cultures, landscapes, and communities. They leave Newbold School as informed, active global citizens who are prepared to engage with and positively contribute to the world.

As they transition to Key Stage 3, pupils carry forward the skills, knowledge, and passion for Geography that they have cultivated at Newbold. They are equipped to confidently navigate the challenges of further geographical study and have a strong foundation to pursue careers or interests that involve analysing, protecting, and understanding the world around them.