

Geography Curriculum Statement 2021

1. Curriculum intent

The Geography curriculum at Gearies Primary School aims to promote a love of curiosity, in the form of learning about the world around us.

When children enter the EYFS, they are encouraged to learn about the wider experience of the world around them. They will learn through first-hand experiences to explore, observe, predict, talk about the creatures, people, plants and objects in their natural environments.

The National Curriculum states that high-quality geography education should inspire pupil's curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives.

The National Curriculum states that KS1 children should develop their knowledge about their locality, the United Kingdom and the wider world. They should understand basic subject-specific vocabulary relating to human and physical geography and begin to use geographical skills, including first-hand observation, to enhance their locational awareness.

The National Curriculum states that KS2 children should extend their knowledge and understanding beyond the local area to include the United Kingdom, Europe and North and South America. This will include the location and characteristics of a range of the world's most significant human and physical features. Through these areas children will develop their geographical knowledge, understanding and skills.

The community at Gearies Primary School is ethnically diverse and this allows the teachers to plan lessons that make links to countries and places that children already know and their mother land. This opens up vast opportunities for children to see themselves in Geography lessons and make them even more curious.

The core values at Gearies Primary School can be summed up as inclusive and aim to support children and their parents to attain the best results that they can. Through the teaching of Geography, with a keen eye towards curiosity, these values are upheld with planning that involves activities that go beyond mere knowledge but deep understanding of the world around us.

Geography at Gearies Primary School is part of a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes curiosity, excitement and opportunities to use their knowledge in other subjects. For example, Year 6 students learn about biomes and vegetation belts and during English lessons they have opportunities to debate and use this knowledge to further their ability to debate.

The Geography curriculum ensures all children acquire the necessary knowledge and skills and are able to apply them in their learning.

2. How our vision is ambitious

Geography at Gearies Primary aims to go beyond just knowledge based learning. It is a subject that fosters curiosity and extending this to further work inside and outside of the classroom.

The Geography curriculum has been designed to ensure that each Year group doesn't repeat any topics, and this allows children to move through the school and gain broad knowledge of geography touching on many aspects of the world from seasons in Year 1 to trade and global economy in Year 6.

The Geography curriculum is consistently revised to ensure that lessons are up-to-date, relevant and inclusive for the students in our community.

3. Curriculum enhancement

To support the learning of Geography at Gearies Primary trips are planned for the start of the academic year, based on our local environment. This gives children the experience of what is in their local community before moving on to the wider world. Future trips are based around the topic being studied in their Geography lessons, along with any links with other subjects.

Geography is further enhanced through the Geography Bee that takes place at the end of each year. This tests children on their geography knowledge they have learnt in their studies for that particular year. This brings a sense of community and ownership over their own learning.

At Gearies we have started a Geography week which celebrates diversity in cultures, allowing children to try new languages, food and clothing and to appreciate other people not only through language.

Gearies runs a Geography exhibition which celebrates the uniqueness of the subject by showcasing the variety of work that takes place throughout the school from Reception up to Year 6.

4. The curriculum implementation

Geography is taught once a week, for an hour in both KS1 and KS2 by class teachers. Every half term Geography is swapped with History. In the EYFS, Geography is provided as ongoing provision, giving the children the time and opportunity to explore their environment.

5. Impact of curriculum on our children

The Geography curriculum at Gearies Primary has been designed to ensure that all children have a wide range of knowledge and skills by the time they leave Year 6. In order for this to happen the units have been designed to give children the core knowledge needed to understand geography around the world. The units have been carefully picked to be Year group appropriate. This allows the children to build on their knowledge all throughout their studies.

The core behind Geography at Gearies is to allow children to connect with their learning through knowledge based understanding.

6. Our strengths

The vision at Gearies is to tailor our curriculum to the students we have by ensuring a wide range of geographical knowledge and skills are taught. By making sure that each Year group learns something new each year has enthused the children to want to study Geography.

Challenging students is key to ensure that they are able to think about the wider world on their own and make decisions that are in the best interest for themselves and the planet.

7. Our programme of study

Key Stage One

Year One:

- Weather and seasons in the United Kingdom
- Hot and cold areas of the world
- Observing our local area, including our school
- Promotion of asking questions based on learning.

Year Two:

- Countries, cities and counties of the United Kingdom
- World's seven continents and five oceans
- Sketching simple maps
- Using keys.

Key Stage Two

Year Three:

- How land is used
- Countries and cities around the world
- Location of countries
- Comparing landscapes
- Rainforests.

Year Four:

- Equator
- Latitude and longitude
- Time zones
- Arctic and Antarctic Circle
- Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn
- The water cycle
- Settlements
- Natural resources
- Ordnance survey maps, including six figure grid references.

Year Five:

- Using atlases
- Eight points of a compass
- Planning routes
- Mountains, volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis
- What is under the Earth's surface
- Power, renewable and non-renewable resources
- Food.

Year Six:

- Weathering
 - Erosion and deposition
 - Coastal features
 - Rivers
 - Trade
 - Global economy.
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8. Assessment arrangements

Assessments are carried out every half term by class teachers, to ensure children are making the required progress. Teacher judgement is based upon several aspects; work in children's books, end of unit tests and moderation of work within Year groups. This ensures that teacher judgement is evidence based and reliable.

9. Aspects we are currently developing

The Geography curriculum is currently undergoing revisions to each Year group curriculum to ensure that the topics being taught are relevant and age appropriate. With the new curriculum being given time to be taught the changes that need to be made are clearer to develop a high quality curriculum.

Geography at Gearies is transitioning from just teaching knowledge based learning to allowing the children to have ownership of their own learning through asking questions and delivering homework.

10. Impacts of recent professional development on standards

Geography CPD has had an impact on how Geography is taught and delivered at Gearies by implementing ideas into the curriculum and passing this knowledge down to teachers. Teachers communicate with the Subject Lead to gain a deeper insight as to how certain topics can be delivered.
