

Geography Curriculum Overview

Intent

At Park Schools Federation, our geography curriculum helps pupils develop a deep understanding of the world they live in — locally, nationally, and globally. We want children to:

- Develop a sense of place, beginning with their **local environment (Shirebrook, Derbyshire, Sherwood Forest)** and moving outwards to the UK, Europe, and the wider world.
- Understand key geographical concepts such as *location, place, environment, human and physical processes, sustainability, and interdependence*.
- Ask and answer questions about the world using evidence, maps, and fieldwork.
- Build respect and responsibility for the environment and consider how human actions affect the planet.

Our geography curriculum is sequenced so that children revisit key ideas (e.g. weather, settlement, land use, maps) at greater depth as they progress through school.

Implementation

- **Enquiry-based learning:** Every lesson is driven by a “big question” that builds children’s curiosity and develops their geographical thinking.
- **Flashback questions:** Each lesson begins with short recall tasks (last lesson, last week, last unit) to reinforce learning and support progression.
- **Progressive content:**
 - In KS1, pupils explore **their own locality, the UK and its weather, the coast, and simple map skills**.
 - In KS2, pupils broaden to global contexts such as **biomes, rainforests, mountains, rivers, climate change, and time zones**.
- **Fieldwork focus:** From early mapping of the school grounds to collecting data in the Peak District or at the coast, fieldwork is a core part of learning.
- **Vocabulary development:** Key geographical terms (e.g. *continent, equator, biome, settlement, erosion, trade, sustainability*) are explicitly taught, revisited, and applied.
- **Cross-curricular links:** Geography connects to History (e.g. mining in Shirebrook, Ancient Greece), Science (e.g. climate, habitats, rocks and soils), and PSHE (e.g. caring for the environment).

Impact

By the end of KS2, pupils will be able to:

- Locate key places using atlases, globes, and digital maps.
- Explain human and physical geographical processes and their impact on people's lives.
- Carry out fieldwork and use simple data to describe and explain patterns.
- Use geographical vocabulary confidently in their written and verbal explanations.
- Make comparisons between their local area and contrasting places in the UK, Europe, and the wider world.
- Show curiosity, respect, and responsibility towards the environment.

Pupils leave Park Schools Federation as informed and reflective young geographers, equipped to understand the world around them and their role in shaping its future.

Topic Overview

Year Group	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
FS2	Getting to know our school environment.	Exploring the natural world. Seasons	Exploring the globe. Climate change & how we affect the world.
Year 1	Our Local Area- Shirebrook	The UK and its weather	Coastal Comparisons
Year 2	Continents, Oceans and World Adventures!	Comparing Places – Our world and beyond!	Maps, Routes and Directions.
Year 3	Forests – What are they and why do they matter?	Settlements – comparing UK to Europe – location and positioning.	Weather and how it affects people.
Year 4	What are rivers and how are they used?	Why are rainforests important to us?	Where does our food come from?
Year 5	Peak District: Mountains	N. America: Mountains, Volcanoes & Earthquakes	Scarborough: Oceans & Climate Change
Year 6	Latitude and longitude and time zones.	Comparison study – Derbyshire and an area of Mexico (inc. Yucatan peninsula in prep for Maya topic).	Climate change Fieldwork: Collect data and mapwork.