

The Dingle Primary School Geography Subject Summary

In Geography pupils are taught: locational knowledge – where places are; the similarities and differences between places; the human and physical features that occur; and geographical skills, observations and fieldwork techniques, such as testing hypothesis and interpreting data, as well as using maps, atlases, and aerial photographs to research a place.

At The Dingle, Geography begins in Reception when pupils learn about the school and the local environment, weather patterns and seasons, and make comparisons between geographical characteristics of Britain and other locations of the World, often through stories. Pupils will be introduced to simple language to describe human and physical geographical features such as office, farm, hill, valley, country, town and city as well as the idea that the World is spherical and many countries and oceans exist on it.

In Years 1 and 2, pupils build on their prior learning by learning about the location of the British Isles and the countries and capital cities within them. They also learn the names and locations of the 7 continents and 5 oceans, and that continents contain countries. The pupils will also learn that climate and weather varies, broadly in line with the distance north and south of the equator, and that location could impact on what geographical features exist.

At a more local level the pupils will look more closely at the human and physical features of Haslington, such as the housing and types of businesses found there. Pupils also compare Haslington to another location in Britain- a seaside resort such as Colwyn Bay and the human and physical features at the coast.

Pupils will also look at modes of transport and how people are able to travel around the globe, both in the past and today.

In Years 3 and 4, locational knowledge recaps on previous years and focuses on The UK, Europe and North and South America, which continues through Years 5 and 6.

Pupils will further develop their language and geographical understanding by studying about mountains, valleys, rivers and coastal features, and the water cycle. They will learn about similarities and differences between settlements, from hamlets to cities. They will know what they would expect to see in each settlement, and the impact of physical features, natural resources, employment, location and transport links when comparing places.

Physical geography is further developed through a closer look at climate zones introducing tropical, desert and temperate areas. A specific study about volcanoes is also completed in Years 3 and 4, that looks at their location and causes. It also covers case studies of places which have been affected by their proximity to a volcano.

In Years 5 and 6 the curriculum is designed to further consolidate previous learning and develop understanding. For example, pupils will study how the climate affects plants and animals within a biome or how countries prepare for natural disasters such as earthquakes, volcanoes and floods. The children will also consider how land use changes over time, what may cause this to occur and the impact it may have. They will also develop their knowledge of Economic Geography through studying the importance of trade in the development of countries and civilizations.

Throughout Years 3-6 pupils will continue to develop their fieldwork and other geographical skills. Children will learn how to use a compass, read OS maps as well as use data, the globe, atlases, maps, pictures and aerial photographs to make predictions and research places, interpreting their findings.

Geography is a subject that crosses many areas of the curriculum, for example, through stories, History and science. Importantly, much of our pupils' learning is recapped, developed and consolidated within other subjects. Our pupils study The Roman, Egyptian and Greek Empires- their location, civilizations, settlements and trade. Similarly, the Geography of Britain and Europe is developed through topics on the World Wars, and the Industrial Revolution looks at the importance of raw materials, development of transport links and the growth of industrial cities and towns.

We expect the knowledge that we teach and the children learn will prepare them for their future learning at High School and be useful in their future lives when making sense of the World.

“The study of geography is about more than just memorizing places on a map. It’s about understanding the complexity of our world, appreciating the diversity of cultures that exists across continents. And in the end, it’s about using all that knowledge to help bridge divides and bring people together.”

–President Barack Obama

