

Geography Pedagogy

Aims of the Geography curriculum

Geography helps children develop knowledge and understanding of the world and its people. At Emmaus we aim to inspire in our pupils a curiosity and fascination for learning about the Earth's key physical and human processes. Our learning objectives are linked to meet or exceed the objectives from the National Curriculum and we endeavour to teach pupils in an engaging and practical way. Enquiry is a key learning approach in Geography and children are given opportunities to develop their questioning, investigative and critical thinking skills.

Geography Teaching

In Early Years we learn about our immediate locality and the world around us. We explore natural materials, visit places and meet people from the community. Fun and stimulating activities help children to develop their vocabulary and observe the similarities and differences between places and people. We learn about other countries and people in the world through stories, poems, images, art and role play.

In Key Stages 1/2 children deepen their understanding of key geographical concepts, skills, knowledge and vocabulary. The curriculum is progressive throughout the school and organised into key areas of learning:

- Locations
- Physical and human Geography
- Sense of place
- Fieldwork and mapping skills
- Stewardship of the planet

These areas of learning are delivered through engaging units of study, linked together to enable children to build on previous learning experiences. They learn the language surrounding coasts and islands in Y1/2, look at local rivers in Y3/4 and broaden their understanding by studying issues relating to the Mississippi river in Y5/6. Children learn about natural disasters, including volcanoes and earthquakes in Y3/4 and apply their learning to understand the impact of Hurricane Katrina and flooding on New Orleans in Y5/6.

Fieldwork studies help children to discover the human and physical geography of the school and its surrounding environment. They use geographical equipment to investigate river processes, observe and measure plastic pollution in the local area and propose solutions. Children are encouraged to develop their geographical skills locating places across the world using maps, six figure grid references, symbols and keys, atlases, globes and aerial photos.

Children are encouraged to investigate and discuss climate change. They are asked to explain how and why our climate is changing and describe how this is impacting both the human and physical environment. They learn about the cause and effect of human actions on global warming, deforestation, food supply chains, pollution and flooding. They are challenged to identify actions they could take that would have a positive impact on the planet.