

Walmsley C.E. School

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Geography Curriculum Statement

Date Drafted	Sept 2025
Policy Written By	V. Higginson
Date Reviewed	Sept 2025
Date of Next Review	Sept 2028
Responsible Committee	School Effectiveness

Mission Statement

As a school we pledge to:

...be a happy school where pupils are encouraged and challenged to reach their full academic and social potential in a creative, friendly and safe Christian environment

...work as a partnership with pupils, their families, staff and the wider community to provide an environment of honesty, responsibility and integrity

...give ownership of the opportunities presented to the school family thus enabling them to reflect on their time at Walmsley with pride

Statement of Intent

“Through our Geography curriculum, we aim to inspire children with a love, curiosity and understanding of the world and its people, helping them develop a sense of responsibility and stewardship for our precious planet.”

At Walmsley C.E. School, we believe Geography plays a vital role in sparking curiosity and helping children explore the natural and human aspects of our world. Our curriculum encourages pupils to develop a secure understanding of the world around them and to recognise their place within it.

Through a carefully planned and progressive approach, pupils gain knowledge and skills that are central to Geography and transferable across other subjects, supporting their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. As an investigative subject, Geography builds children’s understanding of key concepts and develops their ability to apply essential skills.

We aim to inspire a lasting interest in the world and its people, promoting an appreciation of diverse places, cultures, resources and environments. By deepening pupils' understanding of physical and human processes, our curriculum prepares them for future learning and equips them with skills that will support them throughout their education and beyond.

Geography helps children explore questions about places and environments, strengthens their map skills, and develops their ability to investigate and solve problems both inside and outside the classroom. It also supports pupils in understanding environmental and sustainability issues and how these affect the world they live in.

By exploring different societies and cultures, children learn how countries and communities rely on one another. Geography encourages pupils to reflect on their own place in the world, think about their values, and understand their responsibilities towards others and the environment.

Implementation

Curriculum Early Years

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, Geography is taught as part of Knowledge and Understanding of the World. Children begin to explore similarities and differences, investigate their local environment, and learn about a range of cultures and beliefs. These experiences help to build the early skills needed for developing geographical understanding.

According to the Early Years curriculum, children are encouraged to:

Observe, explore and identify features of the place they live and the natural world.

Develop an awareness of their own cultures and beliefs, as well as those of others.

Find out about their environment and discuss the features they like and dislike.

Key Stage 1

During Key Stage 1, pupils explore their local area and the four countries of the United Kingdom. They also begin to learn about the wider world, including the seven continents, the five main seas, and at least one country from each continent.

Pupils carry out geographical enquiries both inside and outside the classroom, asking questions about people, places, and environments. They develop and apply geographical skills using a range of resources, such as maps and photographs. Children begin to learn and use appropriate geographical vocabulary and explore both physical and human features in their local area and beyond

Key Stage 2

During Key Stage 2, pupils explore a range of people, places, and environments in the United Kingdom and around the world, making connections between different locations. They investigate how people impact the environment and how they, in turn, are affected by it.

Pupils carry out geographical enquiries both inside and outside the classroom, asking questions and using a variety of geographical skills and resources, including maps, atlases, aerial photographs, and ICT. They develop enquiry skills such as collecting and recording information, evaluating different perspectives, and asking thoughtful geographical questions.

Children also acquire practical Geography skills, including using appropriate vocabulary, conducting fieldwork, and interpreting maps, plans, and atlases. They learn to use secondary sources accurately, such as aerial photographs and satellite images.

Beyond its own content, Geography supports the broader aims of primary education, contributing to pupils' understanding of the world and their role within it.

Teachers, in both Key Stages will ensure that links between subjects are maximized. When teaching Geography we provide an opportunity to use a variety of data, such as maps, statistics, graphs, pictures, aerial photographs, geographical footage and we enable them to use ICT in geography lessons where this serves to enhance their learning. Children take part in role play and discussions as well as some writing.

Assessment and Recording

Teachers assess pupils' understanding during lessons and adapt their teaching to meet learners' needs, ensuring that all children make progress and are supported in developing their geographical knowledge and skills. Assessment is also used to inform planning and progression across year groups, helping the Geography coordinator review outcomes and maintain a coherent, challenging learning journey for every child.

The Geography coordinator monitors the implementation and effectiveness of the curriculum to ensure it supports pupils' knowledge, skills, and understanding. Pupil voice is used as a key tool to evaluate the impact of teaching and learning, helping to identify how the curriculum enhances children's understanding of the world and their geographical skills. This feedback informs ongoing development and ensures that the Geography curriculum remains engaging, meaningful, and effective for all pupils.

Impact

The Geography curriculum at Walmsley C.E. School is designed to:

- Inspire a lifelong interest and curiosity in the world and its people.
- Provide pupils with knowledge of diverse places, cultures, resources, and both natural and human environments.
- Develop a deep understanding of the interactions between physical and human processes, and of how landscapes and environments are formed, used, and change over time.
- Equip children with essential geographical knowledge, skills, and understanding.
- Enable pupils to explain how the Earth's features are interconnected, shaped, and altered at different scales.
- Raise awareness of local and global environmental issues, and encourage pupils to recognise the role they can play in addressing these challenges both now and in the future.

Review

This policy will be reviewed within the next two years or before if there is a change in the curriculum.

Date of policy: Sept 2025

Date of review: Sept 2028

Geography Co-ordinator: V Higginson