

# Geography at Yarm Primary School



**At Yarm Primary School, we aim to provide children with a broad and balanced curriculum, which builds on children's needs and prepares them for the future. We use an enquiry based learning approach to provide an engaging and purposeful context for learning where pupils are encouraged to apply their skills and knowledge in a range of subjects. We place emphasis on mastering skills, and learning and retrieving key information to provide a solid foundation for lifelong learning.**

In the Early Years Foundation Stage children know about similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials and living things. They talk about the features of their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one another (between home and school for example).

Within the National Curriculum, pupils should be taught:

## **KS1**

- To develop knowledge about the world, the United Kingdom and their locality.
- To understand basic subject-specific vocabulary relating to human and physical geography.
- To begin to use geographical skills, including first-hand observation, to enhance their locational awareness.

### **Enquiry Questions:**

- \*Wonderful ways to travel: To sail or not to sail?'
- \*How do we read maps?
- \*Can a polar bear survive without snow?
- \*Sticks, bricks or straw... What would you use?
- \*Living on an island, what is it like?
- \*How have seaside holidays changed?

## **KS2**

To extend their knowledge and understanding beyond the local area to include the United Kingdom and Europe, North and South America. This will include the location and characteristics of a range of the world's most significant human and physical features. To develop their use of geographical knowledge, understanding and skills to enhance their locational and place knowledge.

### **Enquiry Questions:**

- \*How well do you know the world you live in?
- \*How do we grow our best future?
- \*How are maps useful?
- \*Rivers: A lifeline or an obstacle?
- \*Why is plastic fantastic?
- \*Why does Borneo not have any volcanoes?

Children are supported in developing their skills through discrete topic links and the explicit teaching of a sequence of lessons (including knowledge and skills), over a short period of time. Knowledge is also taught effectively through English, as well as topic lessons. The school offers a vast array of residentials, which provide the perfect opportunity for children to apply the skills gained, 'out in the field'.

Local study also provides us with the opportunity to learn and apply our knowledge and skills, and comparing and contrasting different towns, counties, buildings, economies and biomes.



"I really liked learning about the importance of maps. We learned lots of features that I can use when camping with my family." – Finlay Y6



"Penguins and polar bears live in different places. One at the top of the world and one at the bottom. The Arctic and Antarctic." – Arabella EY1

