Dame Catherine Harpur's Geography Curriculum (version January 2024)



Our vision for geography

We believe that geography provides all children the ability to understand how their lives are connected to others. It is vital for our world that children understand how their lives and the lives of others are shaped by their environments and that they have an impact of their environments they inhabit. Through teaching geography, we aim to inspire children to actively explore a broad range of places and learn about people who live in those places in order to paint a bigger picture of life on earth today and to enable them to make responsible choices for the future.

Intent: what we teach and why we teach it

There are many challenges we face as a society and we need to support children to make sense of a complex and dynamically changing world in age appropriate ways. Children must be taught to connect with geography and to do this we place a priority on building on children's own experiences and those of others in the community together with using stimulating opportunities to develop a sense of wonder about new places and other people. As children need to explore their own place in the world we feel that it is crucial for us to use our secure knowledge of our children and families to develop curriculum content and experiences in a bespoke way. We have children and families which have diverse backgrounds and experiences and given that we teach in small groups, we can incorporate this into our curriculum, which means that will promote flexibility to support a broader curriculum than the national curriculum might sometimes allow for. For example, for our 5-7 year olds, we will not focus merely on identifying countries in the UK, but focus on countries which might hold significance to individuals within the a specific group of children, or countries where there are current and relevant interests and events.

Our pupils will investigate places around the world throughout their time at Dame Catherine's as well as physical and human processes. They will improve their geographical vocabulary, map skills and geographical facts, developing their own geographical curiosity through investigating, analysing evidence and drawing conclusions, using a range of sources. There will be a focus on learning through visits, themed days and benefitting from expertise and experiences within our school community.

Implementation: what this looks like in practice

This will be through a combination of overview, thematic and in depth studies (incorporated into wider curriculum questions.) At least 2 or 3 of our curriculum themes (developed as overarching questions) each year will have a significant geographical focus. This ensures that geography will be a central element when planning our curriculum. In addition to this, a significant number of the smaller challenge questions which feed into these will incorporate geography. This will enable us to link in a wider range of geographical regions and aspects of human and physical geography, which might mean one or a short series of lessons. This will also enable us to revisit and consolidate learning over a longer period of time. Theme days or weeks will play a role in supporting this model, as will our 'Off Piste' work, where we respond to events happening in the world and experiences or ideas from individual children. Many of the wider opportunities to read and write will be linked into subject learning, ensuring that writing has a purpose and that there is quality time to spend on learning valuable subjects such as geography.

There are details of the areas to be incorporated over time in our coverage and progression document for geography, which allows us to ensure breadth but also be highly flexible in when and how we incorporate these into our curriculum. This will provide a picture over a rolling 3 or 4 year period. Our model has a high degree of flexibility so that we can respond to the ideas and needs of current groups of children and cater for our mixed-age and part time groups. We can therefore expand our coverage and give the teaching staff the ability to tailor contexts using their professional judgement from knowing their children. This also helps us to be more agile and benefit from resources available which support us in providing exciting and relevant learning experiences. Key skill areas are built into these progression and coverage documents to ensure that children progress in 'becoming a geographer' as they move through the school, irrespective of the geographical area and contexts chosen.

Impact: the effects of the experiences the children have in DCHS

Through our discussions with children, their presentations and their work, we will ensure that our children can talk about geography. They will show a genuine curiosity in the areas they have explored and also make links between different themes so that they are building an overview of the world. They will also show a deepening understanding and use of geographical vocabulary. Children will be able to analyse and interpret information and, most importantly, they question. Children are inspired to further their knowledge and show this by their involvement in developing learning opportunities for themselves and others.

Our curriculum overview

Three and Four Year olds	Four and Five Year Olds ELGs (milestones leading into s		
	Contexts will be the sa	ame as for the 5-7 year olds	
 Know that there are different countries in the world and talk about the differences they have experienced or seen in photos. Continue developing positive attitudes about the differences between people Begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things 	 Draw information from a simple map Recognise some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries Explore the natural world around them Describe what they hear and feel whilst outside Recognise some environments that are difference to the one in which they live Understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them 	People, Culture and Communities Describe their immediate environment (using knowledge from observation, discussion, stories, non-fiction texts and maps) Know some similarities between different cultural communities in this country Explain some similarities between life in this country and life in other countries (using knowledge from observation, discussion, stories, non-fiction texts and maps) The Natural world Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures Know some similarities and differences between the natural world around them and contrasting environments, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons changing	

5-7 years stages D and A	7-11 years stages M, E, C and H
Children will be taught about:	Children will be taught about:
Location and place	Location and place
The names and locations of the continents and oceans	 Locating a variety of countries in Europe Environmental regions of Europe, key physical and human
The names and locations of a small number of countries in Europe	characteristics.Identifying key physical and human characteristics and major cities in
 The names and locations of a number of countries in the world which are significant for the group of children, including the country they live in and / or were born in. Locations of some capital cities and some landmarks. 	 Europe (rivers, mountains, capitals and landmarks) Environmental regions of Europe, key physical and human characteristics and major cities. Counties in England. How chosen areas in the UK have changed over time (land use.) Locate the main countries in 2 or 3 other continents or specific regions of
 A study on their local area and at least one UK study in a contrasting area (for eg. seaside or city) 	continents such as South East Asia. • A study of the UK and studies from countries or regions in at least 3
 A study of an area from 2 other continents (such as Asia or Africa) which are contrasting (to enable children to develop an understanding of the similarities and differences between the 2 countries) At least one study in another European country 	 other continents (South America, North America, Asia, Africa, Australia) Know the position and significance of the Equator, Tropic of Capricorn and Cancer and understand the difference between the Northern and Southern Hemisphere. Make connections between the equator and the tropics (and rainforests.) The significance of Latitude and Longitude
The above will support the development knowledge and understanding in human and physical geography.	How different time zones work
Human and Physical Geography	Grid references
Seasons and weather patterns in the UK	Biomes and where some of these are on a world map
 Where the hot and cold areas of the world are in relation to the Equator and the North and South Poles 	The above will support the development knowledge and understanding in human and physical geography.
 Physical features such as beaches, cliffs, mountains, seas, oceans, rivers, soil, vegetation, valleys, seasons and weather. 	Human and Physical Geography · Volcanoes, rocks and soil
Human features including cities, towns, factories, farms, houses,	Earthquakes, natural disasters such as mudslides, floods, tsunamis Mountains, Bivers and the water such

ports, harbours and shops

Mountains, Rivers and the water cycle

Maps and fieldwork

- World atlases, maps and globes
- · Compass directions and directional language
- Their school, school grounds and surrounding environment

Children will begin to develop a range of skills within the following areas:

Range and depth of locational and place knowledge Human and physical geography Geographical enquiry Using maps and fieldwork

- Climate zones, biomes, focusing on specific areas such as the Amazon Rainforest and the Arctic / Antarctic
- Climate change, its causes and implications
- Trade and Fairtrade
- Settlements and land use (including changes over time and re-settlement and migration)
- Natural resources including energy and food, minerals and water

Maps and fieldwork

- World atlases, maps and globes and computer mapping
- 8 point compass points and grid references

Children will further develop a range of skills within the following areas:

Range and depth of locational and place knowledge Human and physical geography Geographical enquiry Using maps and fieldwork

Dame Catherine Harpur's Geography Coverage and Progression

5-7 year olds





Knowledge and	Knowledge and Understanding of Geography	Year	Term covered	Curriculum theme or question
To be taught about:	This includes:	_		
Arctic & Antartica	Locating and naming the Arctic/Antartica Locating and naming North and South Poles Locating these places on an atlas/globe	2020-21	Spring 2021	Hot and Cold
Map reading (local)	Finding landmarks on a map Using a map to navigate their local area Location of UK cities	2020-21 2022-23	Summer 2021 Spring/Summer 2023	The Big Toddle (parent/child activity afternoon) What Makes for a Great Adventure?
Countries around the world	Names and locations of countries around the world as part of Christmas celebrations around the world. Using google maps to explore countries	2021-22	Autumn 2021	Christmas Round the World project
	Flags of different countries Spain & Mexico	2022-23	Autumn 22 Summer 23	Football World Cup (theme week) What Makes for a Great Adventure?
Local study of Derbyshire	Map reading. Making maps. Local landmarks. Physical and human local features.	2021-22	Spring 2022	What makes Derbyshire so special?
Coastlines	British coastlines and comparison with another country	2021-22	Summer 2022	What colour is your world?
Transport	Transport options (boat, ferry, plane, train, Channel Tunnel)	2021-22	Summer 2022	What colour is your world?
Comparison of London and Paris	Features of both cities. Famous landmarks. Link to Jubilee.	2021-22	Summer 2022	What colour is your world?
Physical features: deserts, beaches and forests	Locations around the world	2021-22	Summer 2022	What colour is your world?
Continents and Oceans	Location of continents and oceans	2022-23	Spring/Summer 23	What Makes for a Great Adventure?

Japan & other Asian cultures	Natural and manmade features/landmarks	2023-24	Autumn 2023	Is it really all elemental?
	Tsumamis			
	Exploring Asian food – noodle tasting			
	Koinobori (koi carp kites)			
	Origami kabuto (Samurai helmets)			

Part 2: Abilities and skills to become a good geographer

Area	To include:	Dates (term and year)	areas of focus
Range and depth	a)Use maps / a globe to identify continents and oceans	Autumn 21	a,d
of locational and	b)Be able to locate the UK	Summer 22	b,c
place knowledge	c)Ask geographical questions about what it might be like to live in a certain place	Spring/summer 23	A, b, c, e
place knowledge	d)Draw and label pictures to show how places are different.	Autumn 23	A, c, e
	e)Express views about a place or environment and give detailed reasons		
Human and	a)Use basic geographical vocabulary to refer to geographical features (beach, coast,	Autumn 21	a
physical	mountain, sea, river season, weather etc.) and human features (city, village farm	Summer 22	a, b,
geography	etc.)	Spring/summer 23	A, b,
8008.00	b)To verbalise and write about similarities and differences between the features of different localities	Autumn 23	A, b, c
	c)Observe and record eg. draw pictures of the weather at certain times in a year. d)Identify the coldest places in the world and make predictions as to where the hottest places in the world might be		

Geographical	a)Ask and respond to simple geographical questions	Spring 22	b,c
enquiry	b)Use books, stories, maps, pictures and photos as sources of information	Summer 22	b,e
J. J	c)Investigate their surroundings	Spring/summer 23	A, b, d, e
	d)Make observations about where things are and why things happen	Autumn 23	A, b, d
	e)Make simple comparisons between features of different places		
Using maps and	a) Follow directions including NSEW	Autumn 21	е
fieldwork	b) Draw a map of a real or imaginary place eg. add detail to a sketch map from aerial	Spring 22	a,c,d, g
	photograph	Summer 22	Н
	c)Begin to understand the need for a key and use agreed symbols to make a simple	Spring/summer 23	E
	key	Autumn 23	C, e
	d)Follow a route on a map		
	e) Begin to use an atlas or globe to locate places and find the land / sea		
	f) Begin to spatially match places eg. locate UK on a small scale and larger scale map.		
	g) Look down on objects to make a plan view map		
	h) Locate and name major features on a UK map		

7-11 year olds

Part 1 : Contexts for Knowledge and Understanding (4-5 year cycle of coverage outlined from 2018-19)

Knowledge and Understanding of Geography		Year	Term covered	Curriculum theme or question
To be taught about:	This includes:			
Biomes – creating an island	Features of desert, tundra, rainforest, temperate forest, aquatic, grassland. Climate and animals found there.		Spring 2019	What's life like on our Island? Are great leaders born to fly?
	Dragon island. Revisit when discussing features of different dragons and where they might live		Spring 2021	,
Rainforests	Major rainforests of the world and location on a map. Connection to the equator	2020-21	Summer 2021	What makes a journey so fascinating?
The UK	Counties of the UK Road and transport links in the UK	2020-21	Autumn 2020	Is Plotting and Planning always Marvellous

	Formation of the UK in history			Are great leaders born to fly?
South America	Countries and physical features of South America with a focus on the amazon Trade and fair Trade. Use of land including changes over recent years and a comparison with 100years ago for y5/6 through text studied	2020-21	summer 2021	What makes a great journey?
Asia	China: megacities. What is a megacity? Locate Chinese megacities on a map. Physical features incl. landmarks of China, a study of the Yangzte river, re-settlement. Yangzte river dam including a focus on pros and cons. Constructing a dam. Japan: physical features and human features (schools)	2019-20	Spring 2020	Shall we play Walls and Warriors?
	Countries of south East Asia. Name and locate countries on a map. ASEAN – reasons why countries choose to work together including trade.	2020-21	Spring 2021	Are great leaders born to fly?
	East Asian countries: focus on geography of Japan and Korea Link with art eg. Fuji	2023-24	Autumn 2024	Is it all Elementary?
Land use	Coal mining in the Victorian Era. Local mining industry Yangzte River study	2019-20	Autumn 2019	How good is change?
	Mining	2021-22	Autumn 2021	What's our Power?
Bodies of water including rivers, lakes the sea	Comparison of different bodies of water. What is a river, lake etc. Terminology eg. source, mouth, tributary etc. Sources of rivers. Dams	2018-19	Spring 2020	Shall we play walls and warriors?
	The River Nile	2018-19	Summer 2019	Theme week on Egypt
	Ponds, rivers and canals Study of River Trent Wildlife (link to science and DT eg. dam building)	2023-24	Autumn 2923	Is it all Elementary?
Rocks, soils and volcanos	Types of rocks and where they are found Soil Types of volcano, volcanic eruptions, where some major volcanoes are situated	2019-20	Spring 2019	What is life like on our island?

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	Structure of the Earth (layers, materials) Types of rocks (also link to gold rushes in US and Australia) Volcanoes	2022-23	Autumn 2022	Shall we go up above or down under?
Midlands and the Age of	City: Lichfield. Study of buildings		June 2021	What makes a journey so fascinating?
Enlightenment	Study of the industries of the Midlands which played a major role in the industrial revolution. (Telford, Cromford,	2021-22		
	Bourneville) Focus on waterpower.		Autumn 2021	
World War 1 Ticknall Village in the early 1900s	Focus on a teacher's family living in the village and the impact of WW1 through original letters and documents such as the memoirs. The life of a Ticknall boy through his memoirs. Taking part in the village commemorations of 100 years since the end of WW1.	2018-19	November 2018	Special school focus to mark 100 years since the end of WW1
Local study	Local industries in Victorian times to early and mid 1900s. Potteries (Staffordshire) coalmining (Derbyshire and Leicestershire.) Map of coal mining industry.	2019-20	November / December 2019	How good is change?
	Ticknall village in WW1 years compared to today	2018-19	Autumn 2018	Theme week for 100 years since end of WW1
	Create a map of the school	2020-21	Autumn 2020	Is plotting and planning always marvellous?
	Local Study: Harpur Crewe family. Development of village.	2021-22	Autumn 2021	
European Countries	Scandinavian countries – regional focus	2018-19	Autumn 2018	Why are Nordic countries so noteworthy?
Capital Cities				WW2
	Journeys made in the 1930s prior to WW2		Summer 2020	VVVVZ
	Maps of Europe. Locate countries and changes over the past 150 years (link to history) Countries, location, capitals Borders and boundaries, man-made and physical and their impact on relationships between countries	2023-24	Spring / summer 2023	What are Europe's awes and abominations?

	Physical and human characteristics of major cities Study of capital cities of Europe – research and presentation including key information about physical and human features Transport links between cities. Focus on Eurostar and trains Maps of cities. Study of the London underground Finding the way around London using maps and transport maps.			
Trade	The Age of discovery and exploration in Elizabethan times. Trade routes.	2018-19	Spring 2019	Can you convince me?
	The history of tea. Trade including the silk road.	2020-21	Autumn 2020	Theme day on Tea
	Trade from Amazon area including 100 years ago. Rubber plantations, palm oil. Fair Trade: what is fair trade?	2020-21	Summer 2020	
	Slave Trade in the US	2019-20	Summer 2020	
	Import, Export and Trade	2022-23	Autumn 2022	Vikings project (What can we learn from Chris' book?)
Settlement, immigration and migration	Immigration to the UK over history. Locate countries and areas people migrated from and identify reasons.	2019-20	Summer 2020	Windrush focus
	Vikings: reasons the Vikings settled in the countries they did.	2018-19	Autumn 2018	Why are Nordic Countries so Noteworthy?
	Immigration into the US in the early 1900s. Ellis island	2018-19	Autumn 2018	Why remember the post-war era of the 1920s?
	Migration – the Story of Malala			What's our Power?
	Settlements including changes over time and re-settlement	2021-22	Autumn 2021	
	(linked with history and Agricultural / Industrial Revolution) Study of Cromford (comparison of now and 1700s) and the idea of a sustainable community	2021-22	Autumn 2021	
	Settlements and migration	2022-23	Autumn 2022	Vikings project (What can we learn from Chris' book?)

The Caribbean	Location of islands Journey to the UK Life in the Caribbean compared to the UK (post war Britain)	20219-20	Summer 2020	Off Piste
	Life in Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago now and in 2950s/60s Windrush	2022.24		off Disk Fight
Natural resources	Immigration to the UK over the centuries and reasons Natural resources (link with science) coal, oil, gas. Activity to model extracting coal, considering how to put the environment back afterwards. Non-renewable and renewable energy sources	2023-24 2021-22	Autumn 2024 Autumn 2021	Off Piste 75 th anniversary of Windrush What's our Power?
Weather and climate	What is weather? What is climate? Link to science with wind power. Extreme weathers. Climate zones.	2021-22	Autumn 2021	What's our Power?
	Life in the capital city – major causes of smog. (linked to the Great Smog 1952)	2021-22	Summer 2022	The 2 nd Elizabethan Age: a good review?
Climate Change	Melting of the ice caps	2018-19	Spring 20219	What is life like on our Island?
	Causes and impact of deforestation (Amazon and South East Asia)	2020-21	Summer 2021	What makes a journey so fascinating?
	Causes and implications. Discuss reasoned and informed solutions and identify changes to be made in lives Carbon and water Footprint (link to power of our plate) Methane, food wastage, seasonal and local foods. Link into COP 26	2021-22	Autumn 2021	What's our Power?
Natural disasters	Mudslides Tsunamis and earthquakes	2021-22	Autumn 2021 Spring 2022	National Mud Day Are Myths Merely Misconceptions?
The World and continents	Continents and a comparison over time World map - Viking times. Location of Nordic countries, Ireland, England and Scotland, Portugal. Location of Istanbul.	2021-22	Spring 2022 Spring 2022	Are Myths Merely Misconceptions? Viking project
	The Cold War: map of countries and what the picture looked like pre- 1990.	2021-22	Spring 22	Off piste: link to work on propaganda and war in Ukraine
	The Commonwealth over time – location of countries	2021-22	Summer 22	The 2 nd Elizabethan Age – a good review?
		2022-23	Autumn 2022	Shall we go up above or down under?

	World Map: journey of Phileas Fogg in Around the World in 80 Days. Compare with our Journey in Just one day for our show. World Cup countries Location, capitals, flags and key facts of the 32 participating nations (independent research and presentation)	2022-23	Autumn 2022	Off Piste: World Cup in Qatar
Africa focus	Countries and their locations. Key physical features How wealth is measured - economic development indicators GDP and GDP per capita and comparing wealth and poverty of all African countries according to different measures. Focus on West Africa and East Africa. Study about daily life in Mali, Kenya and Zambia. Study of the Massai.	2021-22	Spring 2022	Are Myths Merely Misconceptions?
Polynesia	Migration (from island to island – wayfinding)			
Australia focus	Natural resources, settlement and land use, migration			
Middle East	Location of countries Similarities eg. between Qatar and Iran) Study on Iran and Kurdistan	2022-23	Autumn 2022	Off Piste (linked to current affairs and the World Cup)
Oceans	Oceans of the world, characteristics, uses of oceans (food, fuel, transport)	2022-23	Spring 2022	Shall we go up above or down under?

Part 2 : Abilities and skills to become a good geographer (added from September 2021)

Green indicates foundation skills and blue higher level skills.

Area	To include:	Dates (term and year)	areas of focus
Range and depth	 a) Use maps to locate countries and label different countries and continents in the northern and southern hemisphere. b) Identify and locate major cities and geographical features on a map c) Locate the equator and consider the countries and climates which are close to it and the relationship between these. Predict how they think life will be in certain places 	Autumn 2021	d,h,k
of locational and		Spring 2022	a, f,g,j,
place knowledge		Autumn 22	a,e, j,k

	d) Suggest places which might be biomes and use maps to locate biomes. Make comparison between biomes e) Study maps to make assumptions about certain areas (eg. identify mountainous or urban areas) f) When studying pictures, make reasoned judgements about where they were taken. g) Identify similarities and differences between 2 places, analyse the evidence and draw conclusions h) Explain climates of given countries and relate this to hemispheres, the Equator and the Tropics i) Locate major cities and draw conclusions as to similarities and differences j) Locate key physical and human characteristics and relate them to locality (eg. population sizes, transport links) k) Reflect on the value of certain industries to areas.	Spring / summer 23	a,b,g,I,j,k
Human and physical geography	a) Explain the causes of volcanic eruptions and natural disasters such as mudslides and earthquakes b) Produce pictures and labelled diagrams, using correct vocabulary c) Ask and answer questions through self-conducted research d)Draw diagrams, produce writing and use current vocabulary e) Draw conclusions about the location of settlements f) Suggest how the land was used in the past and why this has changed g) Identify main economies and compare trade with the past h) Describe and explain processes that cause natural disasters i) Reflect on reasons for population changes j) Draw conclusions and develop informed reasons for changes k) Discuss consequences of climate change and reach reasoned and informed solutions and identify changes to be made in lives l) Use appropriate vocabulary and language to describe physical features such as rivers, how they have changed over time and the impact m) Identify trade links. n) Reflect on the impact trade has had on an area and generate ideas for cause and effect o) Take part in a reasoned discussion and debate about fair trade. Generate solutions and promote ethically sound trade p) Discuss land use and draw conclusions about reasons based on inhabitants and changing needs	Autumn 2021 Spring 2022 Summer 2022 Autumn 2022 / spring 23 Spring / summer 23	a,b,g,h,k,o a,g,h f, g,h b,d, f, I, m
Geographical enquiry	 a) Begin to initiate geographical questions b) Use books, stories, maps, pictures and photos as sources of information and extend to satellite images and aerial photos c) Investigate places at more than one scale d) Collect and record evidence with some support 	Spring 2022 Summer 2022 Autumn 2022 Spring / summer 2023	b,e,a,f,g,h a,f,d,e,g e,f,g c,h,e

	e) Analyse evidence and begin to draw conclusions eg. making comparisons between places f) Suggest questions for investigating g) Use primary and secondary sources of evidence in investigations h) Investigate places with more emphasis on the larger scale, contrasting and distant places. i) Analyse evidence and draw conclusions eg. from field work data on land use, looking at patterns and explaining reasons.		
Using maps and fieldwork	a) Use 4 compass points and begin to use 8 b) Use letter / number co-ordinates to locate features on a map c) Make a map of a short route experienced with features in the correct order d) Make a simple scaled drawing e) Know why a key is needed f) Begin to recognise symbols on an OS map g) Locate places on a large scale map h) Draw a sketch map from a high view point i) Begin to identify significant places and environments k) Use 8 compass points l) Use 4 figure co-ordinates to locate features on a map m) Begin to use 6 figure grid references and latitude and longitude on an atlas map n) Draw a variety of maps and plans of increasing complexity o) Use OS map and atlas symbols p) Follow a short route on an OS map. Describe features shown on an OS map q) Locate places on a world map r) Use atlases to find out about other features of places such as mountain ranges s) Use a scale to measure distances t) Measure straight line distance on a plan u) Draw maps and plans to a scale v) Use index and contents pages in an atlas x) Draw a plan view map accurately y) Identify significant places and environments	Spring 2022 Spring / summer 23	q,r, A,b,c,e,f,g,l,m,n,o,p,q,v,