

Old Dalby Church of England Primary School



Geography Policy

Approved by:	Teaching Staff
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Next review due by:	September 2025
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**Kind hearts. Open Minds. Courageous Spirits
Together, we will explore life in all its fullness.**

Our Vision

Kind hearts. Open minds. Courageous spirits.
Together, we will explore life in all its fullness.

This is a promise that we, as a whole school, will educate children to be accepting, thoughtful and courageous. Our pupils will show kindness and love to everyone around them, our pupils will understand, accept and celebrate diversity, they will recognise injustices and speak up when they see them.

This will be achieved through a curriculum based on a skills progression of our eight Christian values. We will ensure that the pupils build the skills to live our values. Our curriculum will provide knowledge of historical and current events to provide our children with context and understanding of the values. Children will learn to challenge what they see as an injustice and seek to right this. They will be ambitious, have the courage of their convictions and be empathetic to others. Through working closely with the local community and church, we will provide a warm, nurturing environment to foster ambition, curiosity, spirituality and love.

“Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good.”

Hebrews 10:24

This policy is carried out within the context and spirit of the school's vision and mission statement. It supports and reinforces the aims of Old Dalby C of E Primary School, valuing all children equally whilst ensuring all children achieve their potential.

We ensure that our school:

- Motivates each child so that they develop intellectually, spiritually physically and morally, within a secure and happy working environment
- Challenges children to stand up and speak out when they see injustice
- Provides work within a broad curriculum to develop lively, open and enquiring minds
- Helps children to acquire knowledge and skills relevant to their needs, laying the foundation for the next phase of their education
- Develops an awareness of self, sensitivity to others and acceptance (not tolerance)
- Offers equal opportunities to all pupils throughout the curriculum
- Increases the children's understanding of, and concern for, the environment and the wider world
- Identifies and monitors the progress of all pupils, ensuring that all children are enabled to achieve their full potential
- Supports the children in their development of morals and Christian values
- Facilitates the development of independent, motivated learners
- Provides a caring and friendly atmosphere, which fosters respect for each other and individual responsibility.

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At Old Dalby C of E Primary School, we use the concepts of place, space and environment to underpin our planning within Geography.

The aim of Geography teaching at Old Dalby school is to stimulate the children's interest and understanding of their immediate location and develop contextual knowledge of the location of globally significant locations and the diverse culture in the world. The children gain a sense of identity, and a cultural understanding. Thus they learn to value their own and other people's cultures in modern multicultural Britain and around the world.

Intent

At Old Dalby, we believe that learning is a change in long term memory. We believe children learn best by having opportunities to revisit previous learning. Therefore, we teach geography termly, allowing children to build on their previous knowledge so that the children can fully immerse themselves and have opportunities to reflect and build on prior learning. Our long term plan allows each class to develop their prior learning from the previous year.

The objectives of teaching Geography in our school are:

- To develop contextual knowledge about diverse places, people, resources
- To develop a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes
- To understand how Britain is part of a wider European culture, and to study some aspects of European geography
- To be competent in the geographical skills needed to; collect, analyse and communicate with a range of data
- To interpret a range of sources which show geographical information
- To communicate geographical information in a variety of ways including writing at length
- To gain experiences of fieldwork that deepen the children's experiences of geographical process.

Implementation

Our Geography curriculum design is based on principles derived from evidence through cognitive science:

- Learning is most effective with spaced repetition.

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- Retrieval of previously learnt content is frequent and regular, which increases both storage and retrieval strength.

In addition to the principles, we also understand that learning is invisible in the short term and that sustained mastery takes time.

Our content is subject specific. We make intra-curricular links to strengthen schemas. Reading, writing, speaking and listening skills are further promoted in Geography.

As well as learning the geographical skills required for their fieldwork; vocabulary, locations, descriptions and facts, the children will also learn key skills for life:

- Teamwork
- Safety related to land use
- Asking perceptive questions
- Critical thinking
- Research
- Collect and analyse data
- Apply mathematical skills when analysing data

These techniques are repeated throughout the years, so that the children can build upon and refine their skills in each area. These skills are also transferrable, meaning our children can apply them to other subject areas and which will stand them in good stead later in life.

In the Early Year Foundation Stage, Geography makes a significant contribution to developing a child's knowledge and understanding of the world, through activities such as looking at similarities and differences in relation to places and looking at features of their own immediate environment. This is enhanced further by outdoor learning, where children use their own curiosity to explore and investigate the world around them.

Throughout KS1 and KS2 children will have the opportunity to make links with other topics like such as using their knowledge of human features in the East Midland. In some studies, outdoor learning will be a pathway to teach from; such as locational studies and identifying human and physical features. In KS1 we will use our school grounds to teach some our studies and in KS2 we aim to investigate our wider location through fieldwork.

In addition to our Geography lessons, KS1 children are given the opportunity to participate in Forest Schools, as a timetabled opportunity across the school. Throughout the year the children will have, access to events ran by external companies as well as visits into school from external companies. Children will enjoy school trips off site that will allow them to develop their fieldwork skills as well as their locational knowledge.

Please see our Whole School Long Term planning to see what our pupils will be learning each year.

Impact

The intended impact of our geography curriculum is that children build knowledge, make connections between this knowledge and use it to explore and create. The children will have a sound understanding of Geography in the world around them and gain a rich cultural capital. They will be given the opportunity to develop geographical skills, which they will continue to develop and practice throughout their whole school journey.

Assessment

Assessment judgements are informed by a pupil's progress against the objectives laid down in the school's curriculum document. We appreciate that in EYFS and Key Stage 1 the children will have a smaller general knowledge base to draw upon and in key stage 2 we will then expect to see them making more links to prior knowledge, comparing and contrasting as well as evaluating what they have learned.

Teachers will make a judgement of WTS (working towards the expected standard), EXP (Working at the expected standard) or GDS (working at greater depth). Judgements can be based on written work, formal and informal observations, and discussion.

Monitoring

Unit plans, knowledge organisers and medium term plans are monitored by SLT with responsibility for the curriculum. Curriculum coverage, including Geography, is included in the termly curriculum catch up conversations.

Community

Old Dalby C of E Primary School is proud of our community links, with the value woven through our curriculum. When possible, we like to invite members of our local community to share their experiences and knowledge by visiting classes.

Resources

Useful Websites

Here are a link to some useful geographical websites:

[Royal Geographical Society](#)

[National Geographic](#)

[Geographical Association](#)

Cultural Capital

Children will learn about areas of significant geographical interest within their local area. In addition, they will learn about current topical geography such as the work of Sir David Attenborough and Greta Thunberg.

They will also experience the following:

- Possible fieldwork opportunities within the local area including trips to Rutland Water.
- Use of a computer to identify places in the world and understand their physical and human geography.
- Workshops with specialist geographers.
- Linking learning of other cultures and languages to their geographical location.