

# Rationale and National Curriculum Coverage

## *Knowledge Rich*

The PKC Geography curriculum is ***knowledge rich***. This means the knowledge children will gain has been carefully specified, ordered coherently and builds over time. As children work through our geography curriculum they will know more, understand more about the world around them. A good geographical understanding relies on firm foundations of knowledge and skills. The skills our curriculum develops, like the knowledge, are specified, ordered coherently and progress over time. This curriculum structure helps pupils to deepen their understanding of physical and human geographical processes, fostering curiosity and fascination for the world we live in.

Approaching primary geography with a knowledge rich focus means that the knowledge children will be taught has been identified, in each year group, in each unit and in each lesson. As children work through the curriculum they will know more and understand more about their local area, the UK, Europe and the World. This rigorous approach, covering and going beyond the requirements of the National Curriculum, leaves nothing to chance, building geographical knowledge and understanding in a

way that builds on children's prior knowledge, allowing them to make meaningful connections and gain an understanding of how our world is connected.

### **Geographical Concepts**

Conceptual understanding is at the heart of our curriculum. Children will learn about key geographical concepts such as place, space, the environment and interconnection. Over time, working through an essential process of elaboration, children will add to their conceptual understanding with many examples of geographical knowledge in context. Children will become more skilled at answering questions such as; *what is it like to live in this place? What are the challenges of this environment? How have people changed this landscape over time?* Children will gain an understanding of what geographers do, what they look for and what they may say about a place. They will discover explorers such as Ibn Battuta, Roald Amundsen and Captain James Cook. They will look at the migration of both animals and people, studying the impact migration and colonialism had on places such as Australia and New Zealand.

## *A 'Spatial' beginning*

Each year our geography curriculum begins with a 'Spatial Sense' unit that explicitly teaches geographical skills such as locating places on a map, positioning items on a map, using symbols in a key, interpreting scale, reading climate graphs, identifying locations using co-ordinates, interpreting population data, identifying elevation on relief maps and more. The spatial sense units for each year group are positioned at the beginning of the year to explicitly teach skills which will then be used in context throughout the rest of the year as children apply those skills to learn more about people, places and the environment. The spatial sense units build on prior knowledge before moving children on as the level of challenges increases from year to year. In Key Stage One the Spatial Sense units require children to undertake fieldwork and use observational skills to study the geography of their school and the surrounding environment. In Year 5 children will study a further unit on local geography where they undertake fieldwork to observe, record and present the human and physical features in the local area, focussing on an issue that the local area faces. The aim of the spatial sense units is to build children's geographical literacy so that they are able to use an atlas, maps and geographical data with ease to answer questions they may have about the world.

## **British Geography**

Every year children will study at least one unit of British geography. As with the rest of the geography curriculum, children's knowledge and understanding of British geography builds incrementally from year to year. Beginning with general understanding of the countries of the UK, children then study units that focus more closely on areas of the UK including the South West, the South East, Yorkshire and Humberside, the Midlands and Northern Ireland. When studying these areas, children look at the defining physical and human characteristics of the regions, key topographical features such as hills, mountains, coasts and rivers, how the landscapes and environments have formed over time and how they are used today.

## **European Geography**

In years two, three and four, children will study units of European geography that introduce regions of Europe, climate, trade, industry, landmarks, physical features and contrasting environments. Children will interpret a range of geographical information

including maps, diagrams and climate graphs. Comparisons will be made between places in Europe and the local area. Areas studied include Mediterranean Europe, Eastern Europe and Western Europe. Studying Europe in detail will not only help children to understand the people, places and environment in the regions, but will provide foundational knowledge for their studies in other subject areas, for example their studies of the Vikings in History.

### **World Geography**

Alongside their study of the UK and Europe, children will extend their knowledge beyond these regions to study world geography. When studying world geography, children will focus on places such as North and South America, Asia, Africa, Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific Islands. Applying their knowledge and understanding of the globe, latitude, longitude, the hemispheres and time zones, children will describe and understand physical geography of countries and continents including biomes, vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes. They will consider a range of human geographical features such as settlements, land use,

trade links and natural resources. At the end of the curriculum, in the summer term of Year 6, children will study globalisation, a unit that requires children to apply knowledge from the geography curriculum they have studied throughout their primary education. Children will use data from around the world, including from Geographical Information Systems, to understand social, economic and political globalisation. Children will have many opportunities to reflect upon the advantages and challenges globalisation brings and will consider the importance of sustainability and equity in relation to human interactions with the physical world.

Our geography curriculum equips pupils with knowledge about diverse places, people and environments. We have seen that arming children with powerful knowledge about the world around them helps them to develop a love for the subject of geography, and also recognise their own role in becoming a responsible global citizen.

## National Curriculum Coverage

Aims of the National Curriculum	Year One			Year 2		
Key Stage One Geography	Spatial Sense	The UK	The Seven Continents	Spatial Sense	The British Isles	Northern Europe
Locational Knowledge: Name and Locate the world's seven continents and five oceans			✓			✓
Locational Knowledge: Name, locate and identify characteristics of the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom and its surrounding seas		✓			✓	
Place Knowledge: Understand geographical similarities and differences through studying the human and physical geography of a small area of the United Kingdom, and of a small area in a contrasting non-European country					✓	
Human and Physical Geography: Identify seasonal and daily weather patterns in the United Kingdom and the location of hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the Equator and the North and South Poles		✓	✓		✓	✓
Human and Physical Geography: Use basic geographical vocabulary to refer to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>key physical features, including: beach, cliff, coast, forest, hill, mountain, sea, ocean, river, soil, valley, vegetation, season and weather</li> </ul>		✓	✓		✓	✓
Human and Physical Geography: Use basic geographical vocabulary to refer to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>key human features, including: city, town, village, factory, farm, house, office, port, harbour and shop</li> </ul>		✓	✓		✓	✓
Geographical Skills and Fieldwork: Use world maps, atlases and globes to identify the United Kingdom and its countries, as well as the countries, continents and oceans studied at this key stage		✓	✓		✓	✓
Geographical Skills and Fieldwork: Use simple compass directions (North, South, East and West) and locational and directional language [for example, near and far; left and right], to describe the location of features and routes on a map	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Geographical Skills and Fieldwork: Use aerial photographs and plan perspectives to recognise landmarks and basic human and physical features; devise a simple map; and use and construct basic symbols in a key	✓			✓		
Geographical Skills and Fieldwork: Use simple fieldwork and observational skills to study the geography of their school and its grounds and the key human and physical features of its surrounding environment.	✓			✓		

Aims of the National Curriculum		Year 3					Year 4						
Lower Key Stage Two Geography		Spatial sense	Western Europe	Settlements	Rivers	Asia-China and India	UK: The South West	Spatial sense	Mediterranean Europe	Eastern Europe	UK: Northern Ireland	UK: London & South East	Asia: Japan
Locational Knowledge: locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on Europe (including the location of Russia) and North and South America, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓
Locational Knowledge: name and locate counties and cities of the United Kingdom, geographical regions and their identifying human and physical characteristics, key topographical features (including hills, mountains, coasts and rivers), and land-use patterns; and understand how some of these aspects have changed over time				✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	
Locational Knowledge: identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zones (including day and night)		✓						✓					✓
Place knowledge: understand geographical similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography of a region of the United Kingdom, a region in a European country, and a region within North or South America			✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Human and Physical Geography: Describe and understand key aspects of; physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Human and Physical Geography: Describe and understand key aspects of: human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Geographical Skills and Fieldwork: use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Geographical Skills and Fieldwork: use the eight points of a compass, four and six-figure grid references, symbols and key (including the use of Ordnance Survey maps) to build their knowledge of the United Kingdom and the wider world		✓						✓					
Geographical Skills and Fieldwork: use fieldwork to observe, measure, record and present the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods, including sketch maps, plans and graphs, and digital technologies.								✓					



Aims of the National Curriculum	Year 5				Year 6								
Upper Key Stage Two Geography	Spatial Sense	Mountains	UK: East Anglia, Midlands, Yorkshire	Australia	New Zealand & South Pacific	Local Study	Spatial Sense	North America	South America	Africa	British Geography	Globalisation	
Locational Knowledge: locate the world’s countries, using maps to focus on Europe (including the location of Russia) and North and South America, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Locational Knowledge: name and locate counties and cities of the United Kingdom, geographical regions and their identifying human and physical characteristics, key topographical features (including hills, mountains, coasts and rivers), and land-use patterns; and understand how some of these aspects have changed over time			✓								✓		
Locational Knowledge: identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zones (including day and night)	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Place knowledge: understand geographical similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography of a region of the United Kingdom, a region in a European country, and a region within North or South America			✓					✓	✓		✓		
Human and Physical Geography: Describe and understand key aspects of; physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Human and Physical Geography: Describe and understand key aspects of: human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓			
Geographical Skills and Fieldwork: use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Geographical Skills and Fieldwork: use the eight points of a compass, four and six-figure grid references, symbols and key (including the use of Ordnance Survey maps) to build their knowledge of the United Kingdom and the wider world			✓			✓					✓		
Geographical Skills and Fieldwork: use fieldwork to observe, measure, record and present the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods, including sketch maps, plans and graphs, and digital technologies.						✓							