



Geography at Queensway School

At Queensway, we aim to promote an understanding and familiarity of a wide range of places and people, covering geographical features of Britain and across the world. We believe that children should have a secure understanding of the world around them, beginning with their local area, to their country and to the continents of the world.

In foundation stage, Humanities is interwoven throughout the EYFS curriculum to ensure a breadth of adult-led and child-led learning experiences. Humanities falls within the 'understanding the world' strand of the early years framework, which encompasses the following Early Learning Goals: Past and Present; People, Culture and Communities; The Natural World. Within Geography, children develop their concept of locational knowledge by explaining similarities and differences between their own lives and lives of people in different countries, drawing on knowledge from stories, non-fiction texts maps. Aspects of physical geography are covered through providing children with opportunities to describe their immediate environment using knowledge from observation, discussion and drawing pictures of animals, plants and landscapes. Furthermore, children are enabled to identify and describe the similarities and differences between the natural world around them and contrasting environments, drawing on their own experiences and shared fiction and non-fiction texts.

In Key Stage 1, we focus on geography of the local area and community, as well as widening the children's understanding of some geographical features, such as their addresses. We compare countries within the United Kingdom, including naming and learning each of the capital cities. In doing so, we believe that children will build an awareness and understanding of where they live in relation to other important places within our country.

Throughout Key Stage 2, we encourage children to develop a greater understanding of the physical geographical features, including caves and coastal areas early on. Children are taught about the human impact on the environment and why it is important to take responsibility for our actions. Early mapping skills through identifying landmarks are taught as well as children having the opportunity to begin to read universal map symbols, such as Ordnance Survey maps.

Alongside the focus of geography in Britain, it is our belief that children should have an awareness of how geography dictates the wider world and understand how this can affect lifestyle choices of people around the world.

As part of geography studies, we feel that it is important that children can immerse themselves in their immediate environment, as well as exploring places with different geographical features, which are further afield. In order to facilitate this, we arrange trips to geographically significant places in the local area as well as inviting experts in these fields into to share their knowledge and experience of the topic. Furthermore, we have a wide range of physical resources, which aid the children's understanding of their geography topics. Children are also encouraged to bring in items from home, which relate to the topic.

Within our school, we believe that the children's ability to identify similarities and differences between different places and people is important in order to allow them to empathise and understand views and lifestyles of others, without bias and judgment. To enable this, we aim to cover similar concepts, such as habitats, climates and adaptation, in different locations around the world.

At Queensway, we endeavour to teach an equal balance of history and geography topics each year. This is delivered through weekly sessions throughout the year, which incorporate plenty of high-quality writing opportunities.

A long-term plan has been devised to ensure that there is full coverage of geography topics across the school, with a separate progression of skills specifically stating which skills are to be taught in each year group. The subject leader will be responsible for monitoring the planning and teaching of geography at Queensway in line with the school's geography policy, to ensure that the breadth of topics and skills are being delivered.

As a result, we believe that the children of Queensway have the opportunity to grow into well-rounded geographers, with a sound understand of how places and people from around the globe shape the modern world both around them and throughout the world.