

Curriculum Statement for Geography

Intent	<p>Our overarching aim is to equip pupils with the key /core knowledge that they can build on through their future learning.</p> <p>The Geography Curriculum at Brookfields is taught through a termly thematic approach where we strive to inspire a curiosity within our children. We aim to develop an understanding of British Geography and that of the wider world. We work to develop an understanding of environmental issues and becoming responsible citizens especially in relation to sustainable development education and global citizenship.</p> <p>At Brookfields the Geography curriculum is designed to give children the opportunity to explore their own surroundings and those in the wider area. They are taught to think and behave as geographers, exploring through practical activities linked the local environment real meaning to them.</p> <p>At Brookfields we endorse a Curriculum for Life. We provide a curriculum that promotes communication, independence and the development of self-help skills. We recognise that every child matters, and that each pupil should be respected as an individual, of equal status and value, regardless of gender, race, ethnic origin, disability or learning difficulty. We believe that this should be evident in the curriculum we provide and therefore the Geography Curriculum has this at its heart.</p>
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The teaching and learning of knowledge is carefully planned, sequenced and delivered to allow pupils maximum opportunity to learn, consolidate and expand their understanding. Teaching is of a very high quality and is informed by rigorous assessment practices whilst maximising available resources and opportunities.

Pupils on our **Explorers Pathway** are taught through a thematic approach taking elements from the Equals Curriculum. The emphasis is on giving the children enriching and enjoyable experiences and opportunities. Focussed teaching arouses the children's curiosity giving motivation to learn.

Pupils experience activities such as:

- Exploring changes in Weather and Seasons through practical activities.
- Exploring school and local environment through Educational Visits and Learning Outside the Classroom activities
- Developing vocabulary to describe the environment e.g. bridge, road, hill – using photos/PECS/verbal as appropriate
- Using the 'Bus Bag' on planned Educational Visits to support learning
- '40 things to do before leaving Brookfields' activities.
- Y6 Residential Visit

Pupils on our **Adventures Pathway** are taught through a thematic approach with discrete Geography lessons as appropriate. Focus themes from the National Curriculum are differentiated to give termly topic coverage.

Pupils are encouraged to:

- 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 (Link to Connecting Classrooms programme –Cape Town South Africa)
- Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied
- Use the eight points of a compass, symbols and key to build their knowledge of the United Kingdom and the wider world
- Ask and answer geographical questions (such as: What is this place like? What or who will I see in this place? What do people do in this place?).
- Identify the key features of a location in order to say whether it is a city, town, village, coastal or rural area.
- Develop skills and knowledge through '40 things to do before leaving Brookfields' whilst out on Educational Visits.
- Y6 Residential Visit

The school is fully involved with the British Council Connecting Classrooms Initiative and is lead school for a cluster of 10 English and South African Schools. The project has an annual theme with work completed on shared activities across the schools in the cluster.

Reciprocal visits also take place on an annual basis. Pupils and staff benefit massively from the well-established link we share with Ocean View School, Cape Town as this brings a reality to learning about a different locality and a respect for different cultures.

The subject leader monitors coverage, planning and teaching and learning.

Impact	<p>As a result of the well-considered curriculum, high quality teaching and assessment and individualised approaches pupils achieve exceptionally well. Pupils develop knowledge and skills at a level appropriate to their development alongside all of the other qualities that we strive for all children to learn whilst on their learning journey at Brookfields.</p> <p>Enhancing 'Cultural Capital' through our enriching Geography curriculum is a high priority. Pupils are given opportunities to engage in a wide range of experiences during their time at Brookfields; some of which they may or may not have had opportunity to experience outside of the school environment.</p> <p>Evidence can be found through the pupil's work both that in books and that which is displayed in classrooms and around our school evidencing pupils progress and showcasing their hard work. Photographic evidence is captured via Evisense and is linked directly to B-Squared level descriptors.</p> <p>Topic books are marked/annotated by the class teams. Summative assessments take place throughout the year and teachers record the progress and attainment against both the Engagement Steps and Progressions Steps. This data is analysed on a termly basis to inform and address any trends or gaps in attainment.</p> <p>Teachers use this information to inform future lessons; ensuring children are supported and challenged appropriately.</p>
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