

Geography: The Wray Common Way!

At Wray Common, we are passionate about developing curious geographers who have a broad knowledge base to draw from and who are equipped with the investigative skills needed to find out more. We do this through interesting geographical studies. To ensure lessons are as practical and engaging as possible, we immerse children in topics which support their place and locational knowledge, a range of natural and physical features and develop their field work skills. Each year children revisit and enhance their learning, applying taught knowledge to new and engaging areas of the world. Mapping is embedded into our Geography curriculum with digital mapping, Digimaps software, used across the school. Progressive mapping skills are developed in all year groups. Children learn to interpret, create and use a range of maps.

Geography learning begins in Reception as part of 'Understanding the World'. Children are given the opportunity to explore resources through play. Role play 'enhancement boxes' encourage the children to take journeys and develop an understanding of geography specific language. Children explore their local school environment with seasonal walks to support their knowledge of growth and change.

In Years 1 and 2, the children are expected to develop a greater sense of their local environment, broadening their knowledge of place names and locations of the UK, Europe, Oceans and Continents. They develop an understanding of human and physical features and begin to explore how they interact with each other as well as beginning to compare and contrast using their geographical knowledge. Children learn to use Beebots to support their navigational skills.



During Years 3 and 4 the children learn a greater number of geography specific words, following topic led enquiries of a range of geographical features across the globe. Children create fact sheets about extreme weathers, developing independent research skills. They learn names of rivers, mountains and volcanoes and, intertwined with scientific investigations, explore how they are formed and erupt. Children learn how lives are similar and difference around the globe. They further learn to appreciate how these can be celebrated. Children develop an understanding of climates, population and natural disasters.



In Years 5 and 6 the children are further develop their knowledge of the world, its people and the interlinking relationship. The Year 5 residential trip focuses on their river studies and provides them with the opportunity to see each stage of a river. They enhance their fieldwork skills and are encouraged to seek their own learning investigation opportunities. Children further enhance their map making and interpretation skills using keys, a range of scales and views confidently.

At Wray Common, Geography is woven into our topic based approach to teaching. Children are given the opportunity to gain knowledge from a range of real and fictional visitors such as the Year 5 water talk with the local water company, 'explorers' and 'conservationists' in Reception and Key Stage 1 and messages from 'Tesco' who want to build on our school field in Key Stage 2. Each year a team take part in a geography quiz hosted by another school.



The children's knowledge of the world is seen as vital to supporting the growth of values within the school. Children are respectful of similarities and differences because they have an understanding of global issues and the locational knowledge to support their understanding. They recognise the importance of protecting their environment and make positive changes to the world around them such as the 'Eco-Market' and the development of an Eco-Council.

Our commitment to Geography and skill in embedding excellence and innovation throughout the school has been recognised by The Geography Association who awarded our school the Primary Gold Award in September 2019.

