



Geography at Vanguard School

Subject Statement

Intent:

At Vanguard School, we recognise the importance of supporting pupils in developing their knowledge of how to:

- Identify key physical and human geographical features,
- Recognise the importance of cultural differences and values throughout the world,
- Be aware of their local surroundings in the UK and contrasting places around the world, and
- Develop an understanding of the human impacts on the natural environment.

For Vanguard School to succeed in developing these skills, Geography will provide opportunities to collect, interpret and evaluate data through experiences of fieldwork and exploring a range of geographical information. As a school, we recognise that some of the skills used in Geography will require personalised support for some of our pupils. For example, additional support when producing diagrams may be required by some pupils as part of one-to-one interventions to support the development of fine motor skills. We recognise that many of our pupils have a strong interest in the world around them and in wider global issues, which will be promoted through our school's engagement with the Rights Respecting Schools Award, through trips and regular community engagement as part of our Enrichment Programme.

Our Geography education will spark curiosity, inspire and challenge our pupils, equipping them with the confidence and skills to investigate, problem solve and make decisions. As pupils progress through the Geography curriculum, they will be supported to develop their critical thinking skills, awareness and understanding of gender, cultural, spiritual, and moral issues alongside British values. They will also begin to understand how the Earth's features at different scales are shaped, interconnected and change over time.

There will be an opportunity to explore how Geography and the skills acquired can be used to prepare pupils for working in Geography-related careers. Vanguard School will also provide our pupils with foundational geographic skills which promotes them to become active citizens.

Implementation:

At Vanguard School, pupils' experience of Geography is based on the National Curriculum Programme of Study. A subject specialist will be delivering the Geography curriculum with access to excellent subject specific resources including maps, atlases, globes, textbooks, and multimedia. Geography will begin with a focus on developing OS Map Skills which will then be used in practice by reading national and worldwide maps. It will also explore human and physical geographical features which will include some of the following topics: population, settlements, rivers, flooding,

and weather. Geography will also promote the use of the local community to support some of these topics, for example, using maps skills to explore Vanguard School's local surroundings; outdoor learning, fieldwork and visits will always be encouraged.

We also seek to build on our pupils' specific strengths and interests; recognising that some pupils have an interest in a specific country or aspects of human and/or physical geographical features which they may wish to study further. Vanguard School offers the Foundation (Level 1), Higher (Level 2) and Extended Project Qualifications to its pupils in order to celebrate their special interests and develop skills in research, project planning and extended writing. Projects focussing on specific aspects of Geography are encouraged and may be undertaken in conjunction with the main curriculum.

Pupils will be given opportunities to: visit the local community; natural and human environments; exhibitions and/or museums linked to Geography topics, and to express themselves, should they wish to, through debate and discussion.