

Green Gates Academy
Geography Curriculum Intent

Curriculum Intentions

At Green Gates Academy, our motto is 'Strive, Believe and Achieve'. This is the golden thread that connects all aspects of our curriculum and ethos together. We aim for all children to 'strive' to be the best they can be, setting high standards and expectations. We encourage all children to 'believe' that anything is possible through hard work and determination. Most importantly, we support all children to 'achieve' their personal best, making small, continuous steps of progress throughout their learning in order for them to flourish into confident, thriving individuals.

Using the aims and objectives of the National Curriculum and our curriculum skills progression document, all of our pupils should develop a natural curiosity of the world around them and be able to successfully navigate it. We believe in developing children's geographical thinking and imagination through direct experiences of the world. We also aim to enhance their global understanding and citizenship through geographical skills. Our geography curriculum will also instil curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. We aim for children to understand that geography as a subject is 'Understanding the world: its relationship between places, features, people and their cultures.'

Through the development of our curriculum, children can build upon skills and knowledge needed over time. Children will secure their knowledge and skills in the four key areas of Geography: locational knowledge; place knowledge; human and physical processes and geographical skills. As pupils progress, their growing knowledge about the world should help them to deepen their understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes, and of the formation and use of landscapes and environments. It will also develop knowledge and skills that are transferable to other curriculum areas, and which can and are used to promote their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC). Through Geography, pupils will explore key SMSC themes such as exploring daily life in different parts of the world, considering how actions impact the environment in both positive and negative ways, creating effective links within the community and exploring how other cultures impact our own local area.

Curriculum in Geography will also provide opportunities and references to promote the rights respecting articles.

Curriculum Implementation

- To deliver a knowledge and skill-based curriculum which ensures full coverage of the National Curriculum objectives, showing a clear progression throughout the year groups and within each year group.
- For each class to have three main 'driver' topics each year, which allow for a full and diverse geography curriculum. The driver topic will also allow for cross-curricular links to be explored and topics to be covered to the fullest, enriching the curriculum further and furthering the depths learning can go to.
- We will provide each child with an engaging, enriching, and relevant geography curriculum which both challenges and supports all pupils.
- Children will be encouraged to develop a greater understanding and knowledge of the world, as well as their place in it. They will also be encouraged to make links between knowledge making it relevant and meaningful.
- Providing children with local area focuses to ensure learning is given meaning and substance for the children in our school community.

- Carefully planned and sequenced lessons which have been planned for progressions and depth of knowledge and skills; planning which is quality assured by the subject lead each half term.
- We promote a 'can-do' attitude through open ended learning activities, giving children the chance to explore ideas and think geographically, drawing on past experiences in and out of classroom.
- To use the idea of divergent thinking to allow all children to progress and achieve at their own level.
- Staff at Green Gates are highly skilled in demonstrating practical skills needed for children to meet lesson objectives and aims.
- A focus for Green Gates Academy currently is to increase the number of opportunities for writing across the curriculum, allowing children to transfer their English skills in a variety of different contexts. Embedding this into our geography curriculum allows for children's progression and knowledge to be showcased and celebrated.
- Beginning and end of topic knowledge gathering activities so that teachers can check that the curriculum being taught is effective and children have made progress.
- Teachers highlight curriculum skills progression document at the end of each half term to ensure full coverage and identify gaps in children's learning.
- Children are to take part in educational visits to enhance their cultural capital and knowledge of the local environment.

Curriculum Impact

- Through the use of our curriculum skills progression document, staff are able to easily track and monitor the progress that pupils are making across aspects of the curriculum. Objectives from the National Curriculum can sometimes be very broad and left open to interpretation, so using a smaller breakdown of the skills required to meet these objectives allows for more concise and specific progress opportunities for pupils.
- Pupils are given sufficient opportunities to develop subject specific vocabulary, skills, and knowledge bases, developing the skills year upon year. This allows children to make clear links between their prior learning and expand on their knowledge base from previous years.
- The children will understand how geography 'happens' in their local area and they will have a good understanding about the world around them and how it has been shaped meaning they will know more, remember more, and understand more.
- Children will have developed the confidence and geographical thinking skills which can be aspects of their daily lives.
- Progress from the start to the end of the topic is shown through the knowledge gathering activities and shows that children are learning and retaining more information.
- Lesson observations and pupil work will show children are able to use the knowledge gained and apply it to activities and skills at an age-appropriate level with opportunities for challenge and abstract thinking.
- Through the opportunities given to the children to succeed and grow as a learner; a positive attitude and growth mindset will be seen throughout all aspects of their learning.