

# Geography at Alexandra Primary School – Our Intentions:

Geography is an enquiry led subject that seeks answers to fundamental questions of what places are like, why and how they are connected, and the importance of location. During lessons teaching enables children to investigate aspects of the world and helps us to better understand its people, places and environments, and the interactions between them. Geography also helps us understand how and why places are changing, and to better imagine, predict and work towards, likely and preferred futures. Geography enables pupils to take on the role of a geographer: exploring, discovering and beginning to make sense of the world around them. Geography enables children to make sense of their world. It must enable students to develop a connection and understanding of the world and their place within it.

## Geography skills that we develop at APS include:

**Geographical enquiries** involve the active participation of the pupils. Children are encouraged to ask geographical questions, as they analyse evidence and draw conclusions.

**Direction / Location** involves children following directions and using compass points to locate features on the map accurately.

**Drawing maps and using them** allows children to begin to draw a variety of thematic maps based on their own data. They locate places on a world map and use atlases to find out about features of places.

**Representation** encourages children to begin to use symbols on a map.

**Scale/Distance** enables children to learn more about maps and for children to use scale to measure distance.

**Perspective** supports children drawing a plan view map accurately.

**Map Knowledge and Style of Map** teaches children how to identify significant places and environments and use medium scale maps.

Geography lessons at APS provide children with practical and creative learning experiences.

**Aspire:** The Geography curriculum has been designed to develop children's curiosity and fascination about the world and its people. It allows for plenty of opportunities to develop a range of investigation and problem solving skills that can transfer into other curriculum areas but also build upon previous knowledge and skills that have been taught in previous year groups.

**Perform:** Through revisiting and consolidating skills, our curriculum helps children build on prior knowledge alongside introducing new skills and challenge. Children expand on their skills in local knowledge, place knowledge, human and physical geography, geographical skills and fieldwork. Children have a range of opportunities to experience geography through practical engaging tasks beyond the classroom.

**Succeed:** The impact and measure of our geography curriculum is to ensure that children at APS are equipped with geographical skills and knowledge that will enable them to progress as confident geographers and for life in modern Britain. All children will use geographical vocabulary accurately and understand the different strands of geography, with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes. Children will begin to make relevant links from geography to other curriculum subjects, such as history and science.

In order for this to happen, we use a number of strategies which include:

- Questions and answers used to test knowledge.
- 'Why' questions are used to encourage pupils to reason and reflect on what they are learning.
- Opportunities for learners to deepen their understanding via cross curricular links.
- Active teaching and learning which involves organising exchanges of ideas and mutual support amongst their peers, encouraging them to take a more active, vocal role in classroom
- Providing a range of resources and materials for children to work with.
- Implementing activities which involve investigation and problem solving.

In order for our children to **Aspire, Perform** and **Succeed** in Geography, we encourage creative thinkers who are willing to take risks. We want our learners to have the confidence to create and develop their ideas; to gain as much hands-on experience understanding the world around them and beyond. To communicate geographical information in a variety of ways, including through maps, numerical and quantitative skills and writing at length.