



SEND – Ambition and Access in Geography

Ambition

What are we aiming for pupils with SEND to achieve in Geography?

We have high aspirations for all pupils with SEND and believe that every child can achieve and make progress within the Geography curriculum. Geography encourages pupils to develop curiosity about the world, understand people and places, interpret maps, investigate environments and consider global issues. We recognise that pupils may experience different barriers to learning, but we do not allow these to limit their opportunities. Through ambitious teaching, appropriate support and high expectations, pupils with SEND are supported to develop the same substantive knowledge, disciplinary skills and geographical understanding as their peers, while recognising that they may require different levels of support or alternative approaches to achieve this.

Access

How do we adapt teaching so pupils with SEND can access and succeed in Geography?

Teaching is adapted through high-quality, inclusive practice, with reasonable adjustments made to meet individual needs. Strategies may include:

- A carefully sequenced curriculum that revisits and builds upon prior learning, reinforcing key vocabulary, geographical concepts and disciplinary knowledge.
- Explicit modelling of geographical skills, including map reading, fieldwork techniques, data interpretation and the use of atlases and digital mapping tools.
- Visual supports such as maps, photographs, diagrams, globes, aerial images and symbols to aid understanding and reduce cognitive load.
- Pre-teaching and revisiting key geographical vocabulary and concepts where appropriate.
- Breaking learning into manageable steps with clear success criteria and opportunities to revisit key knowledge.
- Regular check-ins, responsive questioning and immediate feedback to identify misconceptions and deepen understanding.
- Hands-on and practical learning opportunities, including fieldwork, map work, model making and the exploration of real-world case studies.
- Flexible approaches to recording learning, allowing pupils to demonstrate their understanding through discussion, annotated maps, diagrams, photographs, digital media or practical activities where appropriate.
- Additional processing time or extended time to complete tasks when required.
- Adapted resources, assistive technology and accessibility tools, where appropriate, to support participation and independence.
- Opportunities for collaborative learning alongside peers while maintaining high expectations for all learners.
- Consideration of sensory, physical and communication needs when planning classroom activities and educational visits.



Our aim is that every pupil can access a broad and ambitious Geography curriculum, develop an understanding of the world and their place within it, and make meaningful progress from their individual starting points while building the knowledge and skills needed for future learning and responsible citizenship.