

EYFS Curriculum Links

What does Geography look like in Early Years?



Confident Communicator	Fantastic Friend	Independent Individual
Amazing Athlete	Talented Tool User	Brilliant Bookworm
Wow Writer	Exceptional Explorer	Master of Maths
Compassionate Citizen	Proud Performer	Dynamic Designer

In EYFS, children are introduced to geography/thinking geographically through the 'Understanding the World' area of learning; specifically, the 'Natural World' and 'People, Culture and Communities' Early Learning Goals. By the end of Reception, children who are at the expected level of development in the area will:

- Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants.
- Know some similarities and differences between the natural world around them and contrasting environments, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class
- Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter.
- Describe their immediate environment using knowledge from observation, discussion, stories, non-fiction texts and maps.
- Know some similarities and differences between different religious and cultural communities in this country, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class.
- Explain some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries drawing on knowledge from stories, non-fiction texts and- when appropriate- maps.

In both Nursery and Reception, children begin to develop their understanding of the world around them. They will know where they are placed and will begin to recognise that there are other places around them through studying units such as All About Me and My Earth and Space. These units will help them to become familiar with the location of their home and school; learn about the name of the street they live on as well as the name of their local town or city. They will be introduced to geographical techniques such as map literacy by creating maps of their immediate environment, making links to literacy through labelling. They will begin to differentiate between physical features and human features.

As they progress into Year 1, children gain a greater understanding of the world around them, studying their local area in more detail; the weather, planet Earth and Africa. Their locational and place knowledge will deepen as look more closely at their immediate environment but also planet earth as a whole. The knowledge and understanding gained in EYFS equips our children with firm foundations with which to develop their geographical skills within the four threshold concepts of St Aloysius' geography curriculum: *Location and place knowledge, geographical techniques, physical features and processes, human interaction with the environment.*