

Geography Curriculum

At Silsden Primary School, our geography curriculum is clearly mapped so that it fosters progression through both substantive and disciplinary knowledge. Through a cross-curricular approach to learning, the children are introduced to new geographical learning, whilst building upon previous concepts and ideas from what they learn throughout their time at Silsden. We follow the National Curriculum as a starting point to plan our curriculum as well as bespoke knowledge organisers that have been created in house to ensure that there is suitable progression of substantive themes. When planning, teachers use the substantive 'Learning Questions' (LQs) in the knowledge organisers. They will then plan lessons with at least one of each disciplinary knowledge link in mind and any links to prior learning.

Disciplinary Skills (Geographical Skills & Concepts):

Each geography topic taught in Silsden Primary School contains these 5 key disciplinary knowledge concepts. This ensures a consistent approach to planning and progression through each age phase. Below are the geographical enquiry skills the children will develop over time.



Place and Space:

Understanding locations, their characteristics, and how they are similar or different, and exploring spatial patterns and the relationships between different places.



Scale and Connection:

Recognising the local, national, and global scales of geographical issues and understanding how places and environments are connected.



Physical and Human Processes:

Examining natural and human-made changes to environments.



Environmental Impact and Sustainability:

Exploring how human activities affect the environment and how we can manage resources responsibly.



Cultural Awareness and Diversity:

Recognising how people's lives and traditions vary across different places.

Substantive Knowledge ('Big Ideas'):

Alongside the disciplinary knowledge, children at Silsden Primary School develop their understanding of these geographical themes. Due to each geography topic being different, it is important that common themes run throughout each topic so that the children can make links in their learning. Below are the 6 substantive themes that thread throughout our geography curriculum.



Location and Place Knowledge

Naming, describing, and locating places on maps and globes.



Weather and Climate

Understanding different climates, weather patterns, and how they affect people and places.



Human and Physical Geography

Studying natural landscapes (e.g., rivers, mountains) and human environments (e.g., settlements, land use).



Sustainability and Environment

Exploring issues that affect our planet like deforestation, urbanisation, pollution, and conservation.



Geographical Skills and Fieldwork

Using maps, atlases, compasses, aerial photos, and conducting fieldwork investigations.



Global Connections

Trade, migration, globalisation, and the links between different parts of the world.