Progression of Key Geographical Skills and Knowledge in KS1 Cycle B 2026-2027

Our World – Our Responsibility
AUTUMN TERM

Our World – People and events that shape it.
SPRING TERM

Our World – Learning from the past and shaping the future.
SUMMER TERM

HISTORY BASED TOPIC

Year 1/2 – Autumn World Explorers

Geographical Skills and Fieldwork

Using Maps and Atlases: Use maps, globes and atlases to locate familiar places, UK countries, capital cities, continents and oceans. Recognise map symbols and keys.

Creating Maps and Directions: Draw simple sketch maps of the school and local area, using symbols and a key. Use compass directions (North, South, East and West) to describe locations and follow routes.

Fieldwork and Observations: Explore the school grounds and local area to identify human and physical features. Record observations using drawings, photographs and simple notes.

Land Use: Observe and identify how land is used in the local area, recognising features such as homes, shops, roads, parks and green spaces. Record and compare findings.

Weather Recording: Observe and record daily weather using simple charts, symbols and tables. Identify weather patterns and compare weather in Ghana and England.

Comparing Places: Use maps, aerial photographs, atlases and geographical information to compare Ghana and England, identifying similarities and differences in location, physical features, land use and climate.

Human and Physical Geography, Locational and Place Knowledge

1. Our Locality: Locate Milton Keynes on a map and recognise key local landmarks and features, including St Bernadette's School.
2. Mapping Skills: Recognise different types of maps, understand simple map symbols and keys, and draw a simple sketch map of a familiar place.
3. Compass Directions: Use directional language, including North, South, East and West, to describe locations and follow or plan routes around the school environment.
4. The United Kingdom: Identify and label the four countries and capital cities of the UK, using maps, atlases and keys to locate surrounding seas.
5. The World: Name and locate the seven continents and five oceans, identifying key geographical features, climates, animals and land uses across different continents.
6. Physical Features of the UK: Identify and describe physical features, including mountains, rivers, lakes, forests and seas, using examples from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
7. UK Physical Geography: Locate and recognise significant physical features and landmarks, including Ben Nevis, Snowdonia (Eryri), the Mourne Mountains, Lough Neagh, the River Thames and Giant's Causeway.
8. Comparing Ghana and England: Locate Ghana and England on world maps and atlases. Compare their physical features, weather and climate, identifying geographical similarities and differences between the two countries.

Year 1/2 – Spring London

Geographical Skills and Fieldwork

Using Maps and Atlases: Use maps, atlases and globes to locate London within the UK, identify its position in Europe and recognise its location in the wider world.

Map Reading and Symbols: Interpret simple maps, use a key to identify landmarks and use compass directions (North, South, East and West) and positional language to describe locations and routes.

Aerial Photographs: Use aerial photographs and images to recognise and identify London landmarks, parks, the River Thames and other geographical features.

Observing and Recording: Observe and identify human and physical features of London, including buildings, roads, parks, bridges and the river. Record findings through drawings, photographs and simple maps.

Fieldwork and Enquiry: Explore the local school environment or a familiar urban area, observing how spaces are used. Ask and answer simple geographical questions and compare different types of land use, including green spaces and built-up areas.

Human and Physical Geography, Locational and Place Knowledge

London's Location: Know that London is the capital city of England and is located in Europe. Locate London on maps of the UK, Europe and the wider world.

London Landmarks: Identify and describe significant landmarks, including the London Eye, Tower of London, Big Ben and St Paul's Cathedral. Recognise these using photographs and aerial images.

Mapping and Directional Skills: Use compass directions and positional language to describe locations and routes on a map. Use a simple map key to identify and locate London landmarks.

London's Geographical Features and Green Spaces: Identify human and physical geographical features of London. Locate Hyde Park, Regent's Park and Greenwich Park. Understand the importance of parks and green spaces for recreation, wellbeing and wildlife.

The River Thames: Know that the River Thames flows through London and other towns and is an important transport route. Identify Tower Bridge and understand that the river and its banks provide habitats for wildlife, recognising the importance of protecting them.

Year 1/2 – Summer

HISTORY BASED TOPIC

This overview of Geographical Skills and Knowledge progression forms part of the Geography Long Term Plan and Medium-Term Plan. It has been produced by St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School as part of the Our World thematic curriculum approach. Key physical concepts of such as land use, weather and climate, location of places, countries and continents and developing mapping skills are embedded throughout the Geography Curriculum.