

## Meet the challenge of a deep dive into your geography curriculum

### 8 points to help you be confident in your geography

#### 1. Curriculum

Beginning with EYFS ensure that the curriculum content, sequencing and progression are secure. The content must deepen knowledge and skills at this stage in preparation for KS1. Inspectors will look at the children's achievements and your EYFS curriculum should provide *"no limits or barriers to the children's achievements, regardless of their backgrounds, circumstances or needs"*. AT KS1 and 2 consider the purpose and value of geography for your pupils, how what you teach fits into a coherent and sequenced programme. This is the why, what, when and who you are teaching: the rationale, the sequencing, the timing of topics and selection for year groups. Children will need to know when they are studying the subject geography (and not geography disguised as a topic). Your geography curriculum will have recognised end points and be arranged in a coherent way to deliver the content and spirit of National Curriculum geography (this is geographical knowledge and skills).

#### 2. Staff training

Staff training, especially subject knowledge enhancement, is an area you need to address. You will need to know how your teachers are enriching their own subject knowledge and how they can be offered help and support. An evidence file of staff needs, courses and parent views of the subject could be created.

**3. Thinking like a geographer.** Children will need to develop a range of geographical skills (such as map reading, compass work, photo interpretation, fieldwork) and use geographical vocabulary to express their geographical ideas. You can enhance this with knowledge organisers.

**4. Book scrutiny** Inspectors may look at a selection of children's books, so you will need to ensure that there is an appropriate system of where geography is recorded and developed and all staff understand how the system devised works.

**5. How geography links into the wider school curriculum.** You will need to see links with other subjects, this may be planned or fortuitous but nonetheless valuable. However evidence needs to be collected and provided.

#### 6. Fieldwork

Geography is an enquiry-based subject with fieldwork being paramount. Fieldwork is a vital part of geographical learning and the National Curriculum encourages work around the school, its grounds, surrounding environment and local area. Fieldwork needs to be shown to be an integral part of a coherent and connected curriculum and is a good way of building cultural capital. EYFS children need to be outside experiencing their surrounding environment.

#### 7. Action plan

The inspectors understand that the 2019 framework is new and it will take time for schools to adapt to the new demands. You will need a plan to show how the focus on geography is being addressed over time.

#### 8. Lesson observation and work scrutiny.

You may be asked to observe a lesson with an inspector. Wise co-ordinators may have practised by sharing lesson observations with a member of the SLT.

