

Justification for adapted Geography Coverage for our 25-26 and 26-27 Year 6 Cohorts.



In 2024–25, we introduced the Opening Worlds Scheme of Work as our Geography, History and RE curriculum. This decision was informed by close collaboration with the scheme's creators, Steve Mastin and Christine Counsell, who are also advising on the development of the new national humanities curriculum for 2027. We were guided to begin all pupils, regardless of year group, at the start of the KS2 sequence due to the scheme's carefully designed progression, strong conceptual coherence and intentional sequencing across subjects.

This approach aligns with Ofsted's **Expected Standard for Curriculum Intent**, which emphasises that the curriculum should be:

- coherently planned and sequenced towards cumulatively sufficient knowledge and skills for future learning
- ambitious and designed to give all pupils, including those with SEND and disadvantaged pupils, access to high-quality subject knowledge

The Opening Worlds curriculum provides National Curriculum Plus coverage, ensuring statutory requirements are fully met while extending beyond minimum expectations through depth, challenge and disciplinary thinking.

Following a detailed comparison of our existing curriculum and the Opening Worlds sequence, we determined that, with careful adaptation to ensure appropriate challenge and progression, it was pedagogically sound to introduce the Year 3 thematic content across Years 3, 4 and 5 during the transition period. This supports Ofsted's **Strong Standard for Curriculum Design**, where:

- leaders thoughtfully adapt and sequence curriculum content to build knowledge over time
- transitions between curricula are managed to maintain coherence and progression

As a result, in 2025–26, some geographical themes are revisited across different year groups (for example rivers, mountains, climate, settlements and human–environment interaction). However, this is not repetition without purpose. Instead, themes are deliberately revisited to secure and deepen understanding through:

- increasing locational and spatial complexity
- greater depth of physical and human geographical processes
- increasingly sophisticated subject-specific vocabulary
- progressively demanding disciplinary skills, including fieldwork, data analysis, thematic mapping and geographical enquiry

This approach reflects Ofsted's **Strong Standard for Implementation**, where:

- teachers ensure pupils build on prior learning and secure long-term understanding
- knowledge is revisited and extended in a planned and meaningful way
- pupils develop both substantive knowledge and disciplinary thinking

Alongside this, we have undertaken a comprehensive audit of both the previous and current schemes of work to ensure that:

- all statutory National Curriculum objectives are fully covered by the end of Year 6
- no essential content has been lost during the curriculum transition
- progression is clear and systematic across knowledge, skills and concepts

This directly supports the **Expected and Strong Standards for Curriculum Impact**, ensuring that:

- pupils know more, remember more and can do more over time
- learning prepares pupils well for the next stage of education, particularly Key Stage 3 geography

Consequently, pupils in Years 5 and 6 experience a coherent, well-sequenced curriculum that consolidates prior learning while deepening conceptual understanding and disciplinary competence. This ensures strong curriculum continuity, ambition and impact, fully in line with Ofsted's expectations for high-quality education.

The accompanying curriculum matrix clearly demonstrates how the KS2 National Curriculum is covered in its entirety, despite the transition between schemes of work and the intentional revisiting of key geographical themes.

KS2 GEOGRAPHY NATIONAL CURRICULUM AUDIT

1. Locational Knowledge — EXCEEDED

Statutory requirements include:

- Continents and oceans
- Key lines of latitude (Equator, Tropics, Polar circles)
- Major rivers and mountain ranges
- UK cities and regions

Our coverage of these criteria:

- ✓ World continents (Europe, Africa, S. America, Antarctica etc.)
- ✓ Equator, poles, hemispheres, climate zones
- ✓ Major rivers: Indus, Rhine, Severn, global examples
- ✓ Mountain ranges: Andes, Alps, UK ranges (Snowdonia, Highlands, Pennines etc.)
- ✓ UK cities: London, Cardiff + others
- ✓ Regions: Wales, Sussex, Gloucestershire, Mediterranean basin

Summary: Locational knowledge is very secure and revisited repeatedly.

2. Place Knowledge (comparative regions) — FULLY MET

Statutory requirements include:

- a UK region
- a European region
- a region outside Europe

Our coverage of these criteria:

UK:

- Local area
- London & Cardiff
- Wales (Snowdonia, West Wales coast)

Europe:

- Rhine basin (Cologne, Rotterdam)
- Mediterranean region
- Alps
- European climate zones

Beyond Europe:

- Amazon rainforest
- Indus basin
- New Delhi
- Sahara & Patagonian deserts
- Antarctica
- California, New Zealand

Plus sustained comparisons across:

- ✓ Climate
- ✓ Land use
- ✓ settlement patterns
- ✓ human-environment interaction

Summary: This strand is very strong.

3. Physical Geography — EXCELLENT COVERAGE

Statutory requirements include:

- Climate zones & biomes
- Rivers
- Mountains
- Volcanoes & earthquakes
- Water cycle
- Coasts

Our coverage of these criteria:

Climate & biomes:

- ✓ Mediterranean & temperate climates
- ✓ Biomes linked to climate
- ✓ Rainforest, desert, polar, temperate

Rivers & water:

- ✓ Water cycle
- ✓ River courses & features
- ✓ Flooding & erosion
- ✓ Human modification (canals, pollution)

Mountains:

- ✓ UK & global ranges
- ✓ Formation processes

- ✓ Weather relationships
- ✓ Human adaptations (terracing, settlement)

Tectonics:

- ✓ Earth layers
- ✓ Volcano formation & types
- ✓ Earthquakes & fault lines

Coasts:

- ✓ Erosion, transportation, deposition
- ✓ Landforms
- ✓ Habitats
- ✓ UK coast incl. Jurassic Coast & West Wales

Summary: Every physical geography requirement is clearly covered.

4. Human Geography — MORE THAN SECURE

Statutory requirements include:

- Settlements
- Land use
- Economic activity
- Distribution of resources
- Population

Our coverage of these criteria:

- ✓ Settlement hierarchy (hamlet → city)
- ✓ Land use around rivers & cities
- ✓ Agriculture (arable, pastoral, mixed)
- ✓ Food production & consumption patterns
- ✓ Trade (cocoa journey, imports)
- ✓ Tourism (UK & global)
- ✓ Population distribution & migration
- ✓ Multicultural Britain (London & Cardiff)
- ✓ Resource use (water, land, farming, canals)

Summary: This strand is extremely well developed.

5. Geographical Skills & Fieldwork — EXEMPLARY

Statutory requirements include:

- OS maps, symbols, scale
- Compass directions
- Grid references
- Thematic maps
- Digital mapping
- Fieldwork

Our coverage of these criteria:

- ✓ OS map skills
- ✓ Scale bars
- ✓ 4-figure grid references
- ✓ Compass points
- ✓ World maps & latitude lines
- ✓ Thematic maps (population, climate, earthquakes)
- ✓ Photographs & satellite images
- ✓ Digital mapping tools
- ✓ Repeated fieldwork:
 - school grounds
 - local area
 - woodland
 - rivers
 - shops/local sourcing
- ✓ Data collection & analysis:
 - observation
 - mapping
 - interviews
 - census data
 - trends

Summary: This is well beyond minimum NC expectations.