

Progression of Field Work

EYFS:

In EYFS, children begin to use simple observation skills to study the natural environment within the mud garden.

Year 1:

In year 1, children have the opportunity to take part in simple fieldwork and use their observational skills to study the geography of the school and its grounds. They have the opportunity to use a compass for the first time and to actively build their spatial vocabulary. Children will have the opportunity to create a sketch map and create journey sticks to help map out a route.

Children will also have the opportunity to undertake fieldwork on weather within the school ground. Children should use digital thermometers and other instruments such as rain gauges throughout the term to record information about what the weather is like where we live.

Year 2:

Children have the opportunity to continue to develop their fieldwork and observation skills by studying the geography of the coast, looking at the key human and physical features. This will be discovery fieldwork where children record the physical and human features they see at the coast on a sketch map. They will take photos during the fieldwork which will be annotating back in class.

Year 3:

In year 3, children will have the opportunity to complete fieldwork on settlements by looking carefully at part of a settlement and the facilities. They will be provided with a base map showing simple outlines of buildings and they will be looking at 2-3 local streets, recording the land use using a simple key.

During the unit of land use in the UK, children will also have the opportunity to complete fieldwork at a farm (or a local allotment if a farm is not possible that academic year) in order to give children an insight into crops grown.

Children will have the opportunity to observe the features and produce a field sketch to record the key features of a farm which they should annotate. This will help them to identify how the land is used.

Year 4:
Within year 4, children take part in a piece of fieldwork which involves a visit to the River Medway. It enables children to experience a fluvial environment and to identify some of the river features they have learnt about. Children should practice the geographical skills of drawing and annotating a field sketch, identifying features and measuring characteristics. They will use a field sketch to record key features of a place as accurately as possible.
Year 5:
Children have the opportunity to become familiar with interpreting ordnance survey maps before using these in field work. They have the opportunity to develop their map and compass skills by creating routes to visit using OS Apps and then using this field work in order to create StoryMaps.
Year 6:
Children will have the opportunity to travel to a tourist destination within London to enable them to consider how tourists use the location, the facilities provided for them and the positive and negative.
Children will be exploring why Medway is a good place to live and during this topic will look at settlement use in Medway creating sketch maps, completing tally charts to record how the land is used and collecting different types of information about the local area. Back in class, children will create a land-map use of the local area to record the information from their field notes.