



**Burnham on Crouch
Primary School**
Connected to our world

GEOGRAPHY VOCABULARY PROGRESSION MAP

*Building geographical knowledge, understanding
and skills from EYFS to Year 6.*



EYFS – People, Places and Environment

Key Vocabulary	Vocabulary Progression	What This Means
place, world, home, local, community, family, people, culture	Children begin to understand that people live in different places and communities.	Naming and describing familiar places and features.
country, town, village, map, globe	Begin to recognise that places can be represented and located.	Begin to recognise that places can be represented and located.
weather, sunny, rainy, windy, cloudy, hot, cold, seasons	Describe daily weather and seasonal changes.	Describe daily weather and seasonal changes.
land, water, sea, river, forest, beach	Identify simple physical features in the environment.	Identify simple physical features in the environment.
near, far, next to, behind, in front, left, right	Use simple positional language to describe location.	Use simple positional language to describe location.



YEAR 1 – Hot and Cold Places / Local Geography

Key Vocabulary	Vocabulary Progression	What This Means
season, weather, temperature, forecast, rainfall, climate	Describe weather patterns and seasonal changes.	Identifying and describing geographical features.
hot, cold, tropical, desert, polar, Arctic, Antarctic, equator	Identify and compare hot and cold regions.	Identify and compare hot and cold regions.
country, continent, ocean, capital city	Locate and name places around the world.	Locate and name places around the world.
human feature, physical feature, landmark	Begin to distinguish between human and physical geography.	Begin to distinguish between human and physical geography.
map, key, symbol, route, location, direction	Develop basic map-reading skills.	Develop basic map-reading skills.



YEAR 2 – My Neighbourhood and Around the World

Key Vocabulary	Vocabulary Progression	What This Means
neighbourhood, local area, address, street, road, building	Describe features of the local area.	Locating and comparing places.
settlement, village, town, city, capital city	Understand different types of settlements.	Understand different types of settlements.
river, mountain, hill, valley, coast, beach, forest	Identify and describe physical features.	Identify and describe physical features.
continent, ocean, country, United Kingdom	Locate major places using maps and globes.	Locate major places using maps and globes.
compass, north, south, east, west, direction	Use directional language to describe location.	Use directional language to describe location.
aerial photograph, map, symbol, key	Interpret simple geographical representations.	Interpret simple geographical representations.



YEAR 3 – Rivers and Coasts

Key Vocabulary	Vocabulary Progression	What This Means
source, mouth, tributary, channel, bank, floodplain	Describe parts of a river system.	Explaining geographical processes.
erosion, weathering, transportation, deposition, sediment	Explain how rivers shape the landscape.	Explain how rivers shape the landscape.
meander, waterfall, valley	Identify and explain river features.	Identify and explain river features.
coast, coastline, cliff, bay, headland, cave, arch, stack	Explain coastal processes and features.	Explain coastal processes and features.
settlement, land use, rural, urban, population	Explore why settlements develop.	Explore why settlements develop.
scale, grid reference, compass points, OS map	Use maps more accurately to locate places.	Use maps more accurately to locate places.



YEAR 4 – World Geography / Climate and Biomes

Key Vocabulary	Vocabulary Progression	What This Means
continent, hemisphere, latitude, longitude, equator	Locate places using geographical systems.	Understanding patterns and relationships.
climate, climate zone, tropical, temperate, polar, arid	Explain differences between global regions.	Explain differences between global regions.
biome, ecosystem, vegetation, biodiversity, species	Understand how environments support life.	Understand how environments support life.
rainforest, canopy, understory, forest floor	Describe layers and features of ecosystems.	Describe layers and features of ecosystems.
deforestation, conservation, sustainability	Explore human impact on environments.	Explore human impact on environments.
settlement, population, migration, infrastructure	Explain how people interact with places.	Explain how people interact with places.



YEAR 5 – Extreme Earth

Key Vocabulary	Vocabulary Progression	What This Means
crust, mantle, core, tectonic plate, plate boundary	Explain the structure of the Earth.	Explaining physical processes and human impact.
volcano, magma, lava, crater, eruption, vent	Describe volcanic processes.	Describe volcanic processes.
earthquake, seismic, fault line, epicentre, magnitude	Explain causes and effects of earthquakes.	Explain causes and effects of earthquakes.
mountain range, peak, summit, altitude, elevation	Describe mountain formation and features.	Describe mountain formation and features.
natural hazard, disaster, risk, impact, response	Evaluate the effects of natural events.	Evaluate the effects of natural events.
climate change, greenhouse gases, carbon emissions	Understand global environmental challenges.	Understand global environmental challenges.



YEAR 6 – People and Places / Global Geography

Key Vocabulary	Vocabulary Progression	What This Means	Key Vocabulary	Vocabulary Progression	What This Means
population, urbanisation, migration, settlement	Explain how and why populations change.	Analysing, evaluating and making connections.	similarities, differences, comparison, distribution	Compare locations using geographical evidence.	Compare locations using geographical evidence.
economy, industry, agriculture, infrastructure	Understand how humans use and develop places.	Understand how humans use and develop places.	sustainability, conservation, renewable energy	Evaluate solutions to global issues.	Evaluate solutions to global issues.
landscape, terrain, region, natural resources	Analyse geographical characteristics of places.	Analyse geographical characteristics of places.	data, survey, questionnaire, analysis, conclusion	Use geographical enquiry skills to investigate places.	Use geographical enquiry skills to investigate places.



We are curious.



We explore.



We understand.



We respect.



We connect to our world.