Curriculum Statement: Geography

🧭 Geography at Great Arley School

Geography at Great Arley School is a dynamic and engaging subject that helps pupils make sense of the world around them. Through practical exploration, real-life application, and cross-curricular links, our curriculum builds essential life skills, promotes independence, and encourages curiosity about people, places, and environments.

🎯 Our Curriculum Intent

- Creating a Safe and Inclusive Environment
  Pupils feel confident to explore geographical ideas, ask questions, and express their understanding in a supportive setting.
- Teaching Real-World Skills
  Students develop map-reading, navigation, and observational skills that are useful in everyday life.
- Encouraging Active Participation
  Pupils engage with their local community and environment through fieldwork and practical activities.
- Promoting Environmental Awareness
  Lessons foster respect for nature and understanding of sustainability and climate change.
- Providing Responsive Teaching and Feedback
  Geography lessons are interactive, with ongoing feedback to support pupils' independence and confidence.
- Delivering High-Quality Outcomes
  Pupils work towards producing thoughtful geographical work through guided exploration and evaluation.
- Building Language and Terminology
  Key geographical vocabulary is embedded in every unit to support communication and understanding.
- Creating Fun and Engaging Lessons
  Geography is taught through creative, hands-on experiences that make learning meaningful and enjoyable.
- Linking Learning Across the Curriculum
  Geography connects with science, maths, PSHE, and literacy to reinforce broader learning.
- Encouraging Lifelong Curiosity
  Pupils are inspired to explore the world around them and think critically about global issues.

📚 Curriculum Overview

- **Primary Red:** Pupils follow the semi-formal Equals curriculum. Learning is sensory and exploratory, focusing on local environments, weather, and simple map skills. Pupils engage in hands-on activities such as nature walks, observing seasonal changes, and exploring their immediate surroundings.

- **Primary Yellow:** Pupils follow the formal Equals curriculum. They begin to develop geographical enquiry skills, understand basic human and physical geography, and use simple maps and globes to locate places.
- **Primary Blue:** Pupils continue with the formal Equals curriculum, building confidence in using geographical tools, identifying features of different environments, and comparing places around the world.
- **Year 7:** Pupils focus on foundational geographical concepts such as location, place, and environment. They begin to interpret maps, use compass directions, and explore local and global geography.
- **Year 8:** Pupils deepen their understanding of physical and human geography. Topics include rivers, settlements, and climate zones, with increasing use of geographical vocabulary and enquiry skills.
- **Year 9:** Pupils apply their knowledge to more complex geographical issues such as sustainability, population, and global interdependence. Fieldwork and project-based learning are key components.
- **Year 10 & Year 11:** Some pupils study the ASDAN Geography Short Course, which focuses on practical geographical skills, environmental awareness, and real-world application. Units include map skills, global challenges, and local investigations. Pupils develop transferable skills in research, analysis, and presentation.

🛠️ Skills and Knowledge Students Develop

- Understanding of physical and human geography concepts
- Ability to read and interpret maps, atlases, and digital mapping tools
- Use of geographical vocabulary to describe places and processes
- Skills in observation, data collection, and fieldwork techniques
- Critical thinking and enquiry skills to investigate geographical questions
- Understanding of environmental issues and sustainable practices
- Confidence in presenting geographical findings using charts, diagrams, and reports
- Knowledge of global interdependence and cultural diversity

🌍 Careers and Cross-Curricular Connections

- Career links through Gatsby Benchmark 4
- Exploration of careers in environmental science, urban planning, travel and tourism, and sustainability
- Employer engagement and themed career weeks
- Integration with:
    - Science (climate, ecosystems, geology)
    - Maths (data analysis, coordinates, scale)
    - PSHE (global citizenship, community awareness)
    - English (report writing, discussion, vocabulary development)
    - ICT (digital mapping, research, presentation tools)