

The Foundation of Our Learning: Early Geography

Before starting the national curriculum in Year 1, pupils learn through the Early Years Statutory Framework. This document is structured differently to the national curriculum, as it is organised across seven areas of learning, instead of discrete subjects. The seven areas of learning are:

- communication and language.
- personal, social and emotional development.
- physical development.
- literacy.
- mathematics.
- understanding the world.
- expressive arts and design.

Geography knowledge and skills are specifically found in the areas of:

- mathematics
- understanding the world.

This foundational learning supports all pupils at Alveley, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, in developing the knowledge and skills to support their **geography** learning as they move to Year 1.

The table below outlines the most relevant statements taken from the EYFS statutory framework and the Development Matters (a document that supports the framework).

Nursery

Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand position through words alone. For example, “The bag is under the table,” – with no pointing. • Describe a familiar route. • Discuss routes and locations, using words like ‘in front of’ and ‘behind’.
Understanding the World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials. • Begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things. • Know that there are different countries in the world and talk about the differences they have experienced or seen in photos.

Reception

Understanding the World

- Draw information from a simple map.
- Recognise some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries.
- Explore the natural world around them.
- Recognise some environments that are different to the one in which they live.

Early Learning Goals

Understanding the World

People, Culture and Communities

- Describe their immediate environment using knowledge from observation, discussion, stories, non-fiction texts and maps.
- Explain some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries, drawing on knowledge from stories, non-fiction texts and (when appropriate) maps.

The Natural World

- Know some similarities and differences between the natural world around them and contrasting environments, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class.
- Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons.