

Helping our children understand their world

At Menston Primary School, we want every child to feel curious, confident and inspired as they learn about the world around them. Our geography curriculum helps children understand the places they live in, the people who share our planet and the ways our actions can shape a better future.

Our Vision

Our school vision, *"Making the world a better place,"* is at the heart of our geography learning. Children explore real-world issues such as climate, sustainability and diversity, helping them grow into thoughtful, responsible global citizens.

What Geography Looks Like at Menston

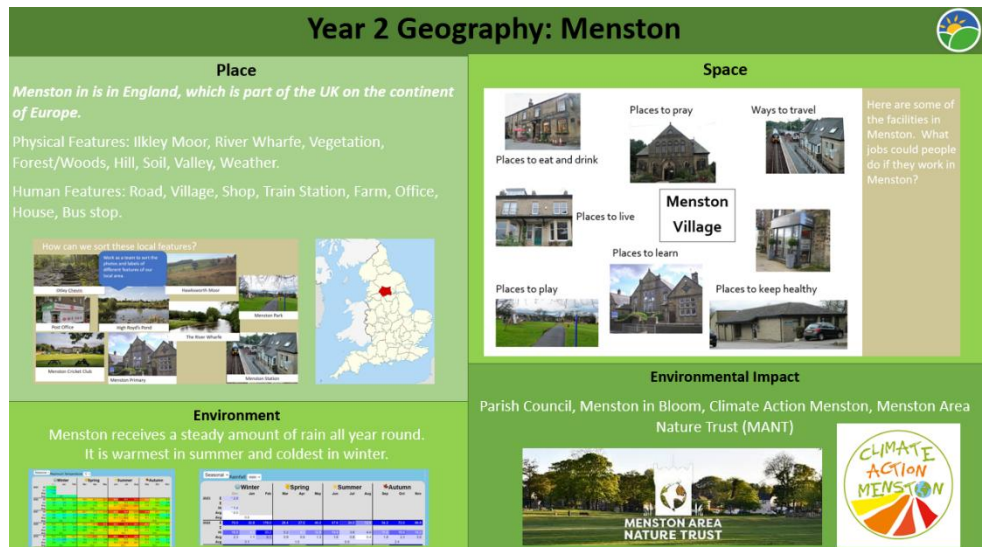
Geography is taught from EYFS to Year 6, beginning with children exploring their immediate surroundings and building up to studying countries and environments around the world.

We help children understand geography through four "big ideas" that run throughout their learning:

- **Environment** - what places are like
- **Environmental Impact** - how people affect the world
- **Place** - what makes locations unique
- **Space** - how places are organised and connected

Although not every 'big idea' is covered in every topic, here is an example of how they combine in a unit of work:

Our four key geographical ideas are woven throughout the curriculum and explored through a range of physical and human geography themes. These ideas are deliberately revisited and built upon over time, enabling children to develop secure knowledge, make meaningful connections across their learning and deepen their understanding of the world.



Year 2 Geography: Menston

Place
Menston is in England, which is part of the UK on the continent of Europe.
Physical Features: Ilkley Moor, River Wharfe, Vegetation, Forest/Woods, Hill, Soil, Valley, Weather.
Human Features: Road, Village, Shop, Train Station, Farm, Office, House, Bus stop.

How can we get these local features?
[Images of local features: Ilkley Moor, River Wharfe, Vegetation, Forest/Woods, Hill, Soil, Valley, Weather, Road, Village, Shop, Train Station, Farm, Office, House, Bus stop]

Environment
Menston receives a steady amount of rain all year round. It is warmest in summer and coldest in winter.
[Weather charts showing temperature and rainfall for Menston]

Space
Places to eat and drink, Places to live, Places to learn, Places to play, Places to pray, Ways to travel, Places to keep healthy.
Menston Village
Here are some of the facilities in Menston. What jobs could people do if they work in Menston?

Environmental Impact
Parish Council, Menston in Bloom, Climate Action Menston, Menston Area Nature Trust (MANT)
[Images of Menston Area Nature Trust and Climate Action Menston logo]

Learning Begins Local

Children first learn about Menston, our school grounds, the local community and our Yorkshire landscape. This helps them develop a strong sense of place. As they move through school, we broaden their horizons by exploring the UK, Europe, South America, North America and other global regions.

Developing Substantive Knowledge

Substantive knowledge is the core content of geography: facts, concepts and vocabulary about places, environments and processes. Our curriculum ensures children learn and remember important knowledge about the UK and the wider world, including rivers, mountains, biomes, climate zones and human geography such as trade and settlement. This knowledge builds year on year so pupils have a secure understanding of how the world works.



Developing Disciplinary Knowledge

Disciplinary knowledge is about thinking like a geographer: asking questions, using evidence and making sense of patterns and processes. Children learn to use maps, collect data, carry out fieldwork and interpret information. They develop enquiry skills, such as comparing places, analysing change and considering sustainability, so they can apply their knowledge to real-world issues.

Practical, Hands-On Geography

Fieldwork is an exciting and important part of our curriculum. Depending on their age, children may:

- create simple maps
- explore weather patterns
- study the River Wharfe
- collect data outdoors
- use digital maps and aerial imagery
- investigate land use and local changes

These experiences bring geography to life and help children understand how real places work.

Linked to Our Curriculum Drivers

Our geography curriculum supports our wider school aims:

- **Equality, diversity and tolerance:** Children learn about different cultures, countries and environments, helping them appreciate diversity and understand global fairness.
- **Creativity and critical thinking:** Pupils explore geographical questions, analyse evidence and share ideas.
- **Global citizenship:** We teach children how everyday actions affect the planet and how they can help protect it.
- **Future-thinking:** Geography links with STEM through digital mapping, climate science and environmental technologies.
- **Wellbeing:** Outdoor learning and connecting with nature support children's emotional and physical health.

What Children Leave Us Knowing

By the end of Year 6, our pupils can:

- use maps, data and fieldwork confidently
- describe and compare places around the world
- explain physical processes such as rivers, mountains and climate
- understand human processes such as trade, settlement, population and development
- think critically about sustainability and environmental responsibility

We want children to leave us excited about the world, with the knowledge, curiosity and sense of responsibility needed to understand global challenges and play their part in making the world a better place.