

The table below shows the vocabulary children should have a concrete understanding of by the end of Key Stage 2. The language is built up and revisited over time, so vocabulary is not exclusive to only one year group. Each year, teachers will review previously taught geographical language to ensure that it is embedded. The definitions ensure that there is consistency across school.

KS1

KS2

Key Geographical terms

Place and locational knowledge	Continent	One of earth's large land masses.
	Ocean	A large area of sea.
	Country	A nation with its own government.
	Capital City	The city that functions as the seat of government of a country or region.
	Map	A diagrammatic representation of an area of land or sea.
	Globe	A map of the world made in the shape of a sphere.
	Atlas	A collection of maps.
	Land use	The function of an area of land.
	North pole	The point at the Northern end of the Earth's axis.
	South pole	The point at the Southern end of the Earth's axis.
	Hemisphere	Any half of a globe or sphere. The earth has traditionally been divided into hemispheres by the equator.
	Arctic Circle	An imaginary line that encircles the North Pole.
	Antarctic Circle	An imaginary line that encircles the South Pole.
	Time zone	Time zones are divided by imaginary lines called meridians which run from the North to South pole.
	Tropics of Cancer/Capricorn	The tropics are the only part of Earth where the sun sometimes shines straight down. The tropics are generally warmer than other parts of the Earth.
Latitude	Distance North or South of the equator, as measured by degrees of the angle at the Earth's centre.	

	Longitude	Distance East or West of the Greenwich Meridian, an imaginary line running from pole to pole through Greenwich in London.
Human and Physical Geography	Season	Four different times during the year with different types of weather.
	Weather	The day-to-day conditions as experienced at a particular location.
	Equator	The great circle of the Earth dividing it into northern and southern hemispheres.
	Pole	Location on the surface of the earth which are the northern and southern ends of the axis of rotation.
	Human Feature	The human characteristics of a place that come from human ideas and actions.
	Physical Feature	A feature on the earth's surface that has been formed by nature.
	Beach	A strip of land sloping gently towards the sea.
	Cliff	A steep rock-face between land and sea.
	Coast	The part of the land adjoining or near the sea.
	Forest	A large area covered with trees and undergrowth.
	Hill	A naturally raised area of land, not as high or craggy as a mountain.
	Mountain	A natural upward projection of the Earth's surface, higher and steeper than a hill and often having a rocky summit.
	Sea	Expanse of salt water that covers most of the earth's surface and surrounds land masses.
	River	A large natural stream of water flowing in a channel to the sea, a lake or another river.
	Soil	The upper layer of the earth in which plants grow.
	Valley	A low area of land between hills or mountains, typically with a river or stream flowing through it.
	Vegetation	The plant life of a particular region.
	City	A large town in the UK that has a cathedral.
	Town	A built up area with a name, defined boundaries and local government. Larger than a village and generally smaller than a city.
	Village	A group of houses and associated buildings situated in a rural area.
	Port	A town or city with a harbour or access to water where ships load or unload.
	Harbour	A place on the coast where ships may moor in shelter.
	Climate zone	Divisions of the earth's climates into general climate zones according to average temperatures and average rainfall.
	Biome	Complex community of plants and animals in a specific physical climate region.
Settlement	Any location chosen by people as a permanent or semi-permanent dwelling place.	
Fossil fuel	Made from decomposing plants and animals found in the Earth's crust.	
Renewable resources	Resources that can be used repeatedly.	

Geographical Enquiry and Skills	Compass	An instrument containing a magnetised pointed which shows the direction of north.
	Direction	A course along which someone or something moves.
	Route	A way or course taken in getting from a starting point to a destination.
	Aerial photograph	A photograph taken from above.
	Landmark	An object or feature of a landscape that is easily seen and recognised.
	Symbol	A mark or character used to represent an object.
	Key	A list of symbols that appear on a map.
	Fieldwork	Practical work conducted by a researcher in the natural environment.
	Grid reference	A map reference indicating a location in terms of a series of vertical and horizontal grid lines identified by numbers or letters.
	Co-ordinate	Numbers which are used to identify a point on a grid.
	Scale	The relationship between distance on a map and the corresponding distance on the ground.
	Thematic map	A type of map specifically designed to show a particular theme such as temperature, population..
	Political map	Designed to show governmental boundaries of countries, states and counties.

The table below shows the vocabulary each year group will focus on during a specific topic. The language is built up and revisited over time, so vocabulary is not exclusive to only one year group. Each year, teachers will review previously taught geographical language to ensure that it is embedded. The definitions ensure that there is consistency across school.

Enquiry Specific Vocabulary		
Year 1		
What does our school community look like?	Pond	A small body of water formed naturally or by artificial means.
	MUGA	Multi-use games area.
	Playground	An outdoor area provided for children to play in.
	Site	An area of ground on which a town, building or monument is constructed.
	Community	A group of people living in the same place.
	Direction	A course which something moves on.

	forwards Backwards Left Right	Directional language
	route	A way or course taken in getting from a starting point to a destination.
	preposition	Expressing a relation to direction, time, place, location...
	compass	An instrument which shows the direction of North.
	North, South, East, West	Cardinal points.
How does life in Rotherham compare to life in the Arctic?	Weather diary	A document to record the weather.
	<u>Seasons</u> Autumn Winter Spring Summer	
	Rain	The condensed moisture of the atmosphere falling visibly in separate drops.
	Sun	Light or warmth received from the Earth's sun.
	Thunder	A loud rumbling or crashing noise heard after a lightning flash due to the expansion of rapidly heated air.
	Snow	Atmospheric water vapour frozen into ice crystals and falling in light white flakes or lying on the ground as a white layer.
	Dangerous	Able or likely to cause harm or injury.
	flooding	The covering or submerging of normally dry land with a large amount of water.
	drought	A prolonged period of abnormally low rainfall, leading to a shortage of water.
	heatwave	A prolonged period of abnormally hot weather.
	blizzard	A severe snowstorm with high winds.
	community	A group of people living in the same place.
Year 2		
What makes our local area special?	Distance	The length of space between two points.
	Park	Large public garden.
	Local area	What is in the area that you live.
	Navigate	Plan and direct a route from one place to another.

	Local facilities	Something such as a place, building or equipment used for a particular purpose or activity.
	Development	The act or process of developing; growth.
	Council	A body of people elected to manage an area.
	Councillor	A member of the local council.
	Vocabulary from previous year group Community, Direction, Forwards, Backwards, Left, Right, Route, compass, North, South, East, West	

How are environments similar and different around the world?	Biome	Areas of the planet with a similar climate and landscape, where similar animals and plants live.
	Woodland	An area of land covered by trees.
	Tundra	A large, tree-less, flat area found in the Arctic where the climate is cold.
	Climate	A large floating mass of ice detached from a glacier or ice sheet.
	Temperature	Measure of warmth or coldness.
	Habitat	A home of an animal or plant.
	Adaptation	Natural process by which an animal or plant becomes better able to live in its habitat.
	Vegetation	Plants or plant life in a particular place.
	Hibernation	Where animals enter into a period of inactivity through deep sleep/unconsciousness.
	Hot desert	Stay warm all-year round and scorching hot during summers. Often very dry.
Vocabulary from previous year group Seasons, Autumn, Spring, Summer, Winter,		

Year 3

How does the sea shape the coast?	Water cycle	The process by which water circulates between the earth's oceans, atmosphere and land involving precipitation.
	Precipitation	Rain, snow, sleet or hail that falls to the ground.
	Cliff	A steep rock-face, especially at the edge of the sea.
	Coast	The part of the land adjoining or near the sea.
	Shoreline	The line along which a large body of water meets the land.
	Beach	A narrow, gently sloping strip of land that lies along the edge of land.
	Coastline	The land along a coast.
	Tide	The alternate rising and falling of the sea due to the attraction of the moon and sun.
	Cave	A natural underground chamber in a hillside or cliff.
	Stack	Consists of steep columns of rock in the sea near a coast, formed by wave erosion.
Arch	Natural rock formation where an arch has appeared with an opening underneath.	

	Sand Dune	Mountain of sand formed by the wind.
	Estuary	Where a freshwater stream meets the ocean.
	Tourism	Industry that drives people to travel for recreation and leisure.
	Seaside	A place by the sea, especially a beach area or holiday resort.
Why do natural disasters happen?	Earthquake	Sudden violent shaking of the ground as a result of movements within the earth's crust or volcanic action.
	Eruption	The ejection of molten rock and steam from a volcano.
	Flood	Overflow of water that submerges land that is usually dry.
	Hurricane	A storm with a violent wind.
	Lava	Is magma (molten rock) emerging as a liquid onto the Earth's surface.
	Mountain	A natural upward projection of the Earth's surface, higher and steeper than a hill and often having a rocky summit.
	Natural disaster	Major adverse event resulting from natural processes of the Earth.
	Volcano	An opening in the Earth's crust that allows molten rock from beneath the crust to reach the surface.
	Tectonic plate	Pieces of land that connect together the Earth's outer shell.
	Landscape	Part of the earth's surface, consisting of geographic features that mark a particular area.

Year 4

How does flooding affect people and the environment in York?	Landmark	A notable location with historical, cultural or geographical significance.
	Tourism	Industry that drives people to travel for recreation and leisure.
	River	An old street in York.
	Flooding	A large or important church.
	Flood management strategy	Very large, usually stone building used for Christian worship.
	Flood defence	Systems put in place to reduce, or ideally prevent damage by flood water.
	Source	
	Waterfall	A cascade of water falling from a height, formed when a river or stream flows over a precipice or steep incline.
	Tributary	A river or stream flowing into a larger river or lake.
	Oxbow lake	A curved lake formed from a horseshoe bend in a river where the main stream has cut across the narrow end and no longer flows around the loop of the bend.

	Floodplain	An area of low-lying ground adjacent to a river, formed mainly of river sediments and subject to flooding.
	Estuary	The tidal mouth of a large river, where the tide meets the stream.
	Mouth	The place where a river enters a lake, larger river or the ocean,
	Meander	Rivers flowing over gently sloping ground begin to curve back and forth across the landscape.
	Confluence	Occurs when two or more flowing bodies of water join together to form a single channel.
	Delta	A delta extends a river's mouth into the body of water into which it is emptying.
What will my journey look like across the globe?	Population	All the inhabitants of a particular place.
	Mainland	A large piece of land that included the greater part of a country.
	Tropical Rainforest	Moist biome where it rains all year long.
	Tropical Monsoon	Affected by monsoon winds which blow in from the sea in summer and bring the seasonal rain.
	Tropical Savannah	Have alternate wet and dry seasons.
	Time zone	A region where the same standard time is kept.
Year 5		
What are the challenges facing Rotherham today and what might the residents of Rotherham hope the town might look like in the future?	Advertisement	Information given to the public about an event, product or service.
	Questionnaire	A set of questions to be asked of a number of people in order to gather information or opinions.
	Locality	An area or a neighbourhood.
	Community	A group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common.
	Development	The process of something/somewhere being changed or improved.
	Development site	The ground or area where building and construction will occur.
	Environmental quality survey	Making judgements to assess environmental quality against a range of indicators (litter, traffic, noise...)
	Generation	All the people born or living at about the same time.
Is there enough energy for everyone?	Settlement	Places where people live and sometimes work.
	Resources	Something that can be used for a purpose.
	Transport link	A network of roads, streets, pipes, power lines... that allowed movement of vehicles or resources.
	Sustainability	The idea that humans must interact with the environment in a way that ensures there will be enough resources left for the future.

	Power station	A building where electricity is produced.
	Coal power station	A type of fossil fuel power station where electricity is produced.
	CCGT (combined cycle gas turbine)	Power plant using combination of gas-fired turbines and steam turbines to produce electricity.
	Nuclear	Nuclear energy is energy in uranium that can be released by nuclear reactions to create power.
	Renewable resource	A resource which can be used repeatedly because it is replaced naturally.
	Non-renewable	Natural resources that cannot be replaced after they are used.
	Food miles	The distance food has travelled to get to a plate.
	Supply chain	A network of people and activities that help move a product from start to consumption by the end user.

Year 6

Can we design a guided walk to explore the different places and communities within Rotherham?	Landmark	An object or feature of a landscape or town that is easily seen and recognised.
	Walking guide	A sightseeing tour made on foot.
	Accessibility	The quality of being able to be reached or entered.
	Stadium	An athletic or sports ground with tiers of seats for spectators.
	Museum	A building in which objects of historical interest are stored and exhibited.
	Minster	A large or important church.
Is our world climate changing or better or worse?	Marine biome	Made up of saltwater oceans.
	Desert	A large area of land where little or no rainfall occurs, along with little vegetation.
	Forest	An area of land that's dominated by trees and undergrowth vegetation.
	Rainforest	A tall, dense forest that receives a lot of rain every year.
	Grassland	Wide expanses of land filled with low growing plants such as grasses and wildflowers.
	Tundra	A large region with no trees, located primarily in the Arctic circle.
	Climate change	A change in the typical weather for a region - such as temperatures and rainfall.
	Deforestation	When humans cut down or burn down large areas of forests to make space for farmland, plantations or to use the trees as fuel.
	Landfill	Big holes in the ground where rubbish is buried.
Agriculture	Farming - growing crops, rearing animals and harvesting crops.	