10.1. Progression in Vocabulary

The teaching and use of appropriate vocabulary forms an important part of teaching learning. These age specific 'key word' lists identify the vocabulary that we expect teachers to be using. In addition, specific key words (must words) will be selected from these lists for each unit of work for inclusion in the knowledge organisers.

10.2

EYFS Nursery	Vocabulary	Definition
	beach	sand or pebbles where the sea meets the land
	China	country
	farm	where animals live and food is grown
	harvest	gathering of food
	home	where we live
	map	showing features such as street, route or things of interest
	temperature	how hot or cold it is
	village	small place where people live

10.3

EYFS Reception

Vocabulary	Definition
equator	imaginary line round middle of Earth
environment	world around us
Kenya	country in Africa
ocean	large expanse of sea
sea	body of water
county	region in UK
Antarctica	continent at the South Pole

10.4

Key Stage 1

Vocabulary	Definition
Aborigine	indigenous person from Australia
aerial view	view from the sky/overhead
capital city	city which is home to the government of a country
climate	average weather conditions
coast	land along a sea
compass	Instrument showing magnetic North
counties of the UK	smaller areas of the UK
features	locations, sites, areas or regions
key	list explaining the meaning of symbols
landmark	prominent object or feature
Names of the continents	North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Europe, Australia, Africa, Antarctica
Names of the ocean	Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean, Southern Ocean, Artic Ocean,
population	number of individuals (human or animal) living in a set area
symbol	picture used to represent a feature
Tourist	person who travels for fun

10.6

Lower Key Stage 2

Vocabulary	Definition
Weather and climate	
altitude	height above sea-level
climate	average weather conditions
indigenous	occurring natural in a particular place
food chain	a series of animals each dependent on the next as a source of food
food web	a series of interlocking food chains
latitude	distance north or south of the Equator in degrees
relief	height and shape of the land
weather	the conditions in the atmosphere at a particular place and time
Rivers and the water cycle	
confluence	where a tributary joins the larger stream or river
deposition	when sand, pebbles and rocks settle on the bed of a river
drainage basin	the land over which a river and its tributaries flows
erosion	the wearing away and removal of rock and other material
gorge	a narrow, steep-sided valley formed as a waterfall erodes the land
tributary	a smaller stream or river that joins a larger stream or river
water cycle	the cycle of water between the ocean, atmosphere, and land, involving precipitation, drainage in streams and rivers, and return to the atmosphere by evaporation and transpiration
Plate tectonics and mountains	
conservative boundary	area where two plates slide past each other
convergent boundary	area where two plates collide
divergent boundary	area where two plates are moving apart
dormant	a volcano that is quiet, but may erupt again
vent	opening in the Earth's crust

Lower Key stage 2

Vocabulary	Definition
composite cone	volcano made of layers of ash and lava
fertile	soil that produces a large number of quality crops
geothermal	heat from the inside of the Earth
Settlement, eco-settlement and retail	
central business district	the area of shops and other businesses in the centre of a settlement
convenience good	an everyday item that is used often
function	the job or purpose of a settlement e.g. defence
hierarchy	a way of arranging shopping centres in order of importance
high order good	expensive item that is not bought frequently
low order good	cheaper item that is bought frequently
retail	selling of items
service	provides help for people
Farming	
arable farming	the growing of crops
ecological footprint	measure of how much of the Earth we use to support us
fertiliser	Substance added to soil to help crops grow, contains nutrients
industry	a way of making money
secondary industry	the making or assembly of items
mixed farming	farms with a mixture of crops and animals
pastoral	the rearing of animals
primary industry	the gathering of raw materials from the sea, rivers, land and underground
raw materials	material to be processed
system	the way that something is organised with inputs, processes and outputs

Lower Key stage 2

Vocabulary	Definition
tertiary industry	providing a service
LKS2 Similarities and differences	
climate	the average rainfall, temperature, wind etc that an area has
continent	a large area of land that contains several countries. The world is split into seven continents
glaciation	the build up of ice until an area is cover in ice sheets or glaciers
u-shaped valley	the broad, flat, steep sided valley formed by a glacier
flooding	when water rises to cover land that is not normally covered in water
fossil fuel	a fuel formed from plants and animals that died many thousand of years ago. Coal and oil are two fossil fuels
glacier	a slowly moving river of ice
greenhouse gas	a gas that traps some of the heat given out by the sun. Carbon dioxide is a major greenhouse gas
heatwave	a long period of unusually hot weather
Skills and fieldwork	
disused	place or building no longer used for original purpose
gorge	narrow valley with steep rocky walls located between hills or mountains
erosion	process in which earth is worn away by natural forces
grid reference	map reference using vertical and horizontal lines
leisure	free time away from work
restoration	recovery of ecosystem that has been destroyed or damaged

10.7

Upper Key Stage 2

Vocabulary	Definition
Weather and climate	
biome:	A biome is a large region of Earth that has a certain climate and certain types of living things. Eg. Forests, desert, grassland, tundra
climate	The average weather conditions in a place over 30 years or more.
deforestation:	The action of clearing a wide area of trees.
economy:	The way in which goods and services are made, sold, and used in a country or area.
ecosystem	A community of plants and animals that depend on each other to survive.
Equator:	Imaginary line through the middle of the Earth that receives the most sunlight.
indigenous:	The first people (natives) who lived in any region, and not later immigrants.
Tropic of Cancer:	An imaginary line of latitude going around the Earth at north of the equator. It is the northernmost point on Earth where the sun's rays can be directly overhead at local noon.
Tropic of Capricorn:	An imaginary line of latitude going around the Earth at south of the equator. It is the southernmost point on Earth where the sun's rays can be directly overhead at local noon.
weather	A specific event— such as a rainstorm or hot day — that happens over a few hours, days or weeks.
Rivers and the water cycle	
aquifers	Layers and areas of rocks below ground where all the cracks, crevices, and spaces between rock particles are full of water.
condensation	The process by which water vapour in the air is changed into liquid water.
evaporation	The process by which water changes from a liquid to a gas or vapour.
irrigation	When farmers water the plants in their fields, to help them grow when there is not enough rain.
hydro-electric	Hydroelectricity is electricity that is made by the movement of water.
saturated	The condition of being filled, soaked, or unable to absorb further.
urbanisation	Urbanisation means that more areas of the world are becoming cities and fewer are small towns or farmland.

10.9

Upper Key Stage 2

Vocabulary	Definition
Plate tectonics and mountains	
continental drift	The plates have moved across Earth's surface for hundreds of millions of years. As the plates move, the continents on them move, too.
fault line	This is an area of stress in the Earth. At fault lines the rocks are sliding past each other and will eventually cause a crack in the Earth's surface.
latitude	Lines of latitude (also called parallels) circle Earth parallel to the Equator.
longitude	Longitude is the measurement east or west of the prime meridian. It is measured by imaginary lines that run around the Earth vertically (up and down) and meet at the North and South Poles.
tectonic plate	Pieces of the rocky outer layer of the Earth known as the crust. These plates are constantly moving, and volcanoes, earthquakes and sometimes mountains are found at the plate boundaries.
tsunami	Large and powerful ocean waves that grow in size as they reach the shore. They can cause major damage as they rush inland flooding cities and destroying homes.
Richter scale:	A scale of numbers used to tell the size of earthquakes. Charles Richter developed the Richter Scale in 1935.
Settlement, eco-settlement and retail	
export	Sending goods to sell in other countries.
favelas	Poorer areas of housing in Brazil built on the edge of big cities.
import	When one country buys things from another country.
sustainability	When humans work with the environment in a way that ensures there will be enough resources left for future generations.
immigration	The process of moving to a new country, with plans to live there permanently.
migration	The movement of people from one place to another for a short period of time or permanently.
urban	Areas where many people live and work, resulting in very dense development. These are usually cities or the downtown areas of larger towns.
rural	An area that has a low population and either left as wilderness or with farming as a major economic activity. The opposite of urban.
trade	Buying and selling things. Trade is an important way for countries to make money and has been happening across the world for hundreds of years.

Upper Key Stage 2

Vocabulary	Definition
Farming	
coordinates	measurement of location in degrees of latitude and longitude
deforestation	when forests are cut down
environmental impact	the effect of human activity on the environment
eutrophication	excessive richness of nutrients in water due to run off from land
grid reference	map reference indicating location using horizontal and vertical lines
intensive	maximising amount of food produced by using machines and fertilizers
machete	broad heavy knife used for harvesting crops
organic	without the use of chemicals
shifting cultivation	Form of agriculture in which area is cleared, cultivated and then abandoned until fertility restored
slash and burn	Farmers chop down and burn vegetation to clear land for crops; when soils is worn out they move on
Similarities and differences	
hurricane	a storm with a violent wind
glacier	a river of ice
global warming	temperatures around the world are rising
greenhouse gas	gases that trap heat around the Earth
atmosphere	the gas around the Earth
solar radiation	electromagnetic radiation emitted by the sun

Upper Key

Vocabulary	Definition
Skills and fieldwork	
contour	Line drawn on a map to indicate depression or elevation
habitat	a place where an organism makes its home
uninhabited	not lived in or occupied
observations	what is seen
pollution	Introduction of harmful materials into the environment