**Progression Framework**

This document outlines learning activities to develop children’s sense of place, sense of space and spatial awareness. While the document relates to the current **Primary School Curriculum for Geography,** it also draws on new curriculum frameworks such as **Aistear,** suggesting **pre-mapping playful activities,** and takes into account changes in learning, such as the use of **technology and digital maps**. All of the activities can take place at school or at home, and many can be carried out inside or outside.

The word ‘map’ is used throughout in a generic sense to refer to all maps, globes, models, aerial photographs and satellite images.

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|  | **Infants** | **1st & 2nd Class** | **3rd & 4th Class** | **5th & 6th Class** |
| **Experience maps** | Play with globes, playmat maps, large-scale aerial photographs and place-based picture books such as *Zoom* by Istvan Banyai and *Roxaboxen* by Alice McLerran  Talk about places in picture books such as *Rumble in the Jungle* by Giles Andreae  Enjoy shared reading of books that feature the Earth, such as *Here We Are* by Oliver Jeffers  Listen to descriptions and stories about places from other children and adults  Describe and tell stories about places  Play with construction toys and begin to enclose items to create representations of features | Look at maps in stories and in the environment, such as a plan of a park  Explore the outlines and plans of small everyday items, such as a bench in the playground  Talk about places on globes, such as places they would like to visit  Begin to use mapping games and tools, such as Minecraft and Google Maps  Discuss different views of the same place, such as peoples’ views of their school | Use maps in class and at home, including maps in atlases, textbooks, online, in the media and in the environment  Search for information on maps, such as places mentioned in stories | Use a range of maps in class and at home, including maps in atlases, textbooks, online (including on phones), in the media and in the environment  Search for, and question, information on maps  Draw on the value of maps across school subjects and in non-school contexts  Become aware of the politics of maps and how maps, particularly world / political maps, can be contested |
| **Understand map features and conventions** | Recognise map conventions in keys, such as symbols and lines  Create maps with some map conventions, such as lines and colours | Recognise map conventions in keys, such as symbols, lines and colours  Use and create simple keys on pictures and maps  Locate the Equator and poles on a globe or map | Recognise and use map conventions in keys, such as symbols, lines, colours and letters  Use and create keys on pictures and maps  Align a map or aerial photograph  Create and use grid systems, including 4-figure grid references  Locate the Equator, poles and the Tropics on a globe or map | Recognise and use map conventions in keys, such as symbols, lines, colours and letters  Use and create keys on pictures and maps  Align a map or aerial photograph  Create and use grid systems, including 6-figure grid references  Locate and know the significance of the Equator, poles and the Tropics  Understand the process of making maps from a globe  Recognise the issues and politics of map making  Recognise and use different map projections |
| **Use maps** | Appreciate that maps are used by people  Talk about images and maps to develop curiosity  Ask questions about people and places where they live  Recognise Ireland on a globe or map  Appreciate that a globe is a representation of the Earth | Ask enquiry questions arising from looking at maps and aerial photographs  Talk about images and maps to develop curiosity  Discuss places on maps  Locate Ireland on maps and globes  Locate some continents on maps and globes  Appreciate that a globe or map is a representation of the Earth | Ask enquiry questions arising from examining maps, aerial photographs and satellite images  Use maps to generate ideas about places  Draw on data in maps to support ideas  Describe similarities and differences between places on maps  Record or find key information on maps  Use the content pages of atlases  Locate some Irish counties on maps  Locate some European countries on maps and globes  Locate a range of other major world features on maps and globes  Locate all continents on maps and globes | Ask critical enquiry questions relating to people, places and processes  Use maps to generate ideas about places  Analyse information on maps to support descriptions and explanations of features, processes and issues  Appreciate the range of places in the world and the complexities of comparing places  Find information using atlas content and index pages  Locate the majority of Irish counties on a map  Locate most European, and a range of other, countries on maps and globes  Locate the continents and major oceans on maps and globes  Locate features in countries that have been studied |
| **Make maps** | Make marks on paper, in sand, with chalk, etc.  Create pictures of familiar places such as home and school  Create models and maps of places using construction toys  Create maps as journey sticks, pictures and other artistic outputs  Create representations of places in stories | Draw pictures and maps of familiar places such as home and school  Draw maps outside, on paper or with chalk on the ground  Make and describe models and maps of places using construction toys  Create maps as journey sticks, pictures and other artistic outputs | Draw maps of the locality, including features  Create maps of imaginary places  Make models of places studied  Create maps online, using generic or mapping packages such as Paint or Google Maps  Draw an outline map of the world using an atlas  Create maps with grid systems  Make maps of places studied  Draw maps based on a description in a book or from a person  Upload data to a digital map, such as the National Biodiversity Centre | Draw maps to scale of places in the locality  Draw sketch maps from OSi maps  Create detailed maps of imaginary places  Create maps online, using generic or mapping packages such as Paint or Google Maps  Use GIS systems such as Google Maps, Esri maps or Open Street Map  Contribute to citizen mapping through Open Street Map  Draw an outline map of the world using an atlas  Create maps with grid systems  Make maps of places studied  Draw maps based on a description in a book or from a person |