**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 McLerranTalk about places in picture books such as *Rumble in the Jungle* by Giles AndreaeEnjoy shared reading of books that feature the Earth, such as *Here We Are* by Oliver JeffersListen to descriptions and stories about places from other children and adultsDescribe and tell stories about placesPlay 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 parkExplore the outlines and plans of small everyday items, such as a bench in the playgroundTalk about places on globes, such as places they would like to visitBegin to use mapping games and tools, such as Minecraft and Google MapsDiscuss 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 environmentSearch 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 environmentSearch for, and question, information on maps Draw on the value of maps across school subjects and in non-school contextsBecome 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 linesCreate maps with some map conventions, such as lines and colours | Recognise map conventions in keys, such as symbols, lines and coloursUse and create simple keys on pictures and mapsLocate 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 mapsAlign a map or aerial photographCreate and use grid systems, including 4-figure grid referencesLocate 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 mapsAlign a map or aerial photographCreate 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 globeRecognise the issues and politics of map makingRecognise and use different map projections |
| **Use maps** | Appreciate that maps are used by peopleTalk about images and maps to develop curiosity Ask questions about people and places where they liveRecognise Ireland on a globe or mapAppreciate that a globe is a representation of the Earth | Ask enquiry questions arising from looking at maps and aerial photographsTalk about images and maps to develop curiosity Discuss places on mapsLocate Ireland on maps and globes Locate some continents on maps and globesAppreciate 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 ideasDescribe similarities and differences between places on mapsRecord or find key information on maps Use the content pages of atlasesLocate some Irish counties on maps Locate some European countries on maps and globesLocate a range of other major world features on maps and globesLocate 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 issuesAppreciate 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 mapLocate most European, and a range of other, countries on maps and globesLocate the continents and major oceans on maps and globesLocate 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 schoolCreate models and maps of places using construction toysCreate maps as journey sticks, pictures and other artistic outputsCreate representations of places in stories | Draw pictures and maps of familiar places such as home and schoolDraw maps outside, on paper or with chalk on the groundMake and describe models and maps of places using construction toysCreate maps as journey sticks, pictures and other artistic outputs | Draw maps of the locality, including featuresCreate maps of imaginary placesMake models of places studiedCreate maps online, using generic or mapping packages such as Paint or Google MapsDraw an outline map of the world using an atlasCreate maps with grid systemsMake maps of places studiedDraw maps based on a description in a book or from a personUpload 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 mapsCreate detailed maps of imaginary placesCreate maps online, using generic or mapping packages such as Paint or Google MapsUse GIS systems such as Google Maps, Esri maps or Open Street MapContribute to citizen mapping through Open Street MapDraw an outline map of the world using an atlasCreate maps with grid systemsMake maps of places studiedDraw maps based on a description in a book or from a person |