

## GEOGRAPHY · Y2–Y6

# Map Skills

Knowledge Organiser — Y2–Y6

## Compass points

Never Eat Shredded Wheat

- N = North S = South E = East W = West
- NE = North-East NW = North-West SE = South-East SW = South-West
- MEMORY AID: Never Eat Shredded Wheat (clockwise: N, E, S, W)
- COMPASS BEARINGS: measured in degrees clockwise from North. N=0°, E=90°, S=180°, W=270°

## Grid references

- 1 Four-figure grid reference**

Read the x (easting) first, then y (northing). 'Along the corridor and up the stairs.' Each square is approx 1km x 1km on OS maps.

*Example: Grid ref 2435 = easting 24, northing 35*
- 2 Six-figure grid reference**

More precise — divide each grid square into 10 (estimate the tenths). Locates a 100m x 100m area.

*Example: Grid ref 243352*



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**Scale**

How map distance relates to real distance. 1:25,000 means 1cm on map = 25,000cm (250m) in reality.

*Example: OS Explorer maps = 1:25,000*

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**Contour lines**

Lines joining points of equal height above sea level. Closer together = steeper slope.

*Example: Contour interval on OS = usually 10m*

**Key OS map symbols to know**

- Church with a tower (black square with cross)
- Youth hostel (triangle)
- Picnic site (blue table)
- Footpath (dotted line)
- Railway (black line with marks)
- River (blue line)
- Spot height (dot with number = exact height in metres)
- Car park (blue P)
- Camp site (blue tent)
- Information centre (blue i)
- Main road (red/orange)
- Woodland (green tree symbol)
- Building (grey)

