

Geography

Curriculum Intent

Geography inspires students to be curious about the world, its people, places and environments. Our curriculum aims to develop students' understanding of the physical and human processes that shape the world, while encouraging them to investigate the connections between people, places and environments at local, national and global scales.

Throughout Key Stage 3, students develop increasingly complex geographical knowledge through the study of topics including population, development, rivers, cities, food resources and security, superpowers and geopolitics, globalisation, water resources, the continent of Africa, natural hazards and climate change. Students investigate contrasting places including the UK, India, Nigeria, and the USA, alongside wider regional and global examples.

The curriculum develops students' ability to think and work like geographers through map skills, fieldwork, graphical and statistical skills, interpretation of geographical data and evaluation of different viewpoints of stakeholders. Students are encouraged to describe and explain geographical patterns and processes, recognise connections between topics and assess the complex relationships between people and the environment.

Knowledge and skills are sequenced from Year 7 to Year 9 so that students build the foundations required for GCSE Geography, while also developing an informed understanding of contemporary global challenges and their role as global citizens.

Assessment, Marking and Feedback

Termly assessments assess both geographical knowledge and geographical skills, with increasing challenge and independence across Key Stage 3.

Year 7: Students develop foundational geographical knowledge and skills including location, place, population, weather and climate, ecosystems and introductory data interpretation. Assessment focuses on identifying, describing and beginning to explain geographical patterns and processes, alongside basic map, graph and numerical skills.

Year 8: Students apply knowledge to increasingly complex physical and human geography through Rivers, Cities, Development and Food as a global resource. Assessment develops students' ability to describe distributions, explain processes, compare places, interpret geographical evidence and construct developed explanations.

Year 9: Students develop greater analytical and evaluative thinking through Superpowers, Water Resources, Globalisation, Africa, Natural Hazards and Weather & Climate. Assessment increasingly reflects the style and command words students will encounter at GCSE, including describe, compare, explain, assess and evaluate alongside mathematical, graphical, cartographic and data-response skills.

Assessments include a combination of:

- low-tariff knowledge and retrieval questions with focus on key terms
- multiple-choice and identification questions
- geographical skills and mathematical calculations
- map, graph, photograph and data interpretation
- short extended-response questions

- longer level-marked **explain, assess and evaluate** questions

Students are given opportunities to respond to feedback, identify misconceptions and improve their geographical knowledge and written responses with re-teach feedback lessons based on a 'quad' matrix.

Homework

Homework supports the retrieval, consolidation and application of geographical knowledge taught in lessons.

Typical homework includes:

- knowledge and retrieval quizzes
- keyword and definition practice
- map and location activities
- geographical reading and comprehension
- independent research
- interpretation of geographical data
- revision activities before assessments.

Homework is also used to encourage students to engage with contemporary geographical issues and current events, making connections between classroom learning and the wider world.

Links to National Curriculum / Syllabus Specifications

Key Stage 3 National Curriculum

The Geography curriculum enables students to meet the principal requirements of the Key Stage 3 National Curriculum through the study of:

Locational knowledge

- extending knowledge of the world's countries using maps
- understanding the location of major physical and human features
- developing knowledge of Africa, Asia and other globally significant regions

Place knowledge

- understanding geographical similarities, differences and links between places
- studying contrasting locations at different levels of development
- developing understanding of the UK and places beyond Europe

Human geography

- population and migration
- urbanisation
- international development
- economic activity
- globalisation and international trade
- superpowers and geopolitical influence
- food and resource security

Physical geography

- weather and climate
- climate change
- hydrology and rivers

- ecosystems and tropical rainforests
- tectonic hazards
- tropical cyclones
- interactions between physical and human processes

Geographical skills and fieldwork

- interpreting maps at different scales
- using atlases and GIS
- interpreting photographs and satellite imagery
- constructing and interpreting graphs
- applying mathematical and statistical skills
- collecting, presenting and analysing geographical fieldwork data
- drawing conclusions and evaluating geographical investigations

The curriculum progressively introduces the knowledge, terminology, skills and examination command words required for transition to GCSE Geography.

Exam Support & Revision Resources

Students are supported through:

- knowledge organisers and keyword lists
- lesson retrieval activities
- assessment revision materials
- practice examination-style questions
- model answers and writing scaffolds
- geographical skills practice
- assessment feedback and improvement activities
- online revision resources including BBC Bitesize

As students' progress through Year 9, greater emphasis is placed on GCSE-style command words and extended writing, particularly the development of explanation, application and assessment skills.

Extracurricular and Enrichment Opportunities

Academic interventions

Targeted support and intervention are provided where appropriate to address gaps in geographical knowledge, literacy, numeracy and examination skills.

Educational trips and fieldwork

Opportunities can include:

- local geographical fieldwork
- coastal fieldwork
- urban fieldwork
- environmental quality surveys
- land-use surveys
- traffic and pedestrian counts
- river and coastal investigations
- Wakehurst Royal Botanical Gardens
- Clockhouse Farm
- Rochester City Centre

Fieldwork develops students' ability to collect primary data, present results, analyse patterns, reach conclusions and evaluate geographical methods.

Assemblies and wider curriculum

Geographical themes can be explored through assemblies and wider-school activities linked to:

- climate change
- sustainability
- natural disasters
- global inequality
- migration
- population
- international conflict and geopolitical change

Competitions and enrichment

Students can participate in:

- geographical quizzes
- map and flag competitions
- photography competitions
- sustainability projects
- geographical research projects
- current-affairs activities

Interested to know more?

To read:

- Prisoners of Geography – Tim Marshall
- Factfulness – Hans Rosling
- Horrible Geography series – Anita Ganeri
- The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind – William Kamkwamba
- National Geographic
- Geographical Magazine

To watch:

- BBC Earth
- BBC Bitesize Geography
- David Attenborough documentaries
- Planet Earth
- Our Planet
- Race Across the World
- Simon Reeve documentaries
- Michael Palin documentaries

To listen:

- BBC – The Documentary Podcast
- BBC World Service
- The Rest Is Politics: Leading – selected geography/geopolitics episodes
- geographical and environmental programmes available through BBC Sounds

To visit:

- Natural History Museum, London
- Science Museum, London
- Greenwich – Royal Observatory and Prime Meridian, London
- Royal Geographical Society (RGS), London

- Folkestone and the Kent coast
- Dover and the White Cliffs
- local rivers, coastlines and urban environments