

Why is this subject important?

We want to inspire in pupils a curiosity and fascination about their world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. Teaching will equip pupils with knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes. As pupils progress, their growing knowledge about the world will help them to deepen their understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes, and of the formation and use of landscapes and environments. Geographical knowledge, understanding and skills provide the framework and approaches that explain how the Earth's features at different scales are shaped, interconnected and change over time.

What are the fundamental concepts of the subject?

The national curriculum for geography aims to ensure that all pupils:

- develop contextual knowledge of the location of globally significant places – both terrestrial and marine – including their defining physical and human characteristics
- understand the processes that give rise to key physical and human geographical features of the world
- are competent in the geographical skills needed to:

As students of geography, pupils are supported in developing a broad range of personal and academic skills that enable them to investigate and analyse complex ideas and concepts.

The key concepts explored in geography include:

Environments

Students examine a variety of environments, both natural and cultural, each with unique characteristics and features.

Perspectives

Students are introduced to different bodies of thought, theories, and worldviews that influence how people interpret the world. They develop an understanding of:

Processes Students explore sequences of natural and cultural actions that shape and transform environments, places, and societies.

Interaction

Students investigate how different elements of geographical study are interconnected. Interaction involves the mutual influence of natural and cultural environments.

Landscapes

Students explore how landscapes are the visible result of interactions between natural and cultural factors.

Change

Students study the ever-present nature of change in both physical and human geography. This includes changes driven by:

Sustainability Students learn the importance of sustainable thinking and behaviour, focusing on meeting current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs.

Building Skills for the Future

By engaging with these concepts, Geography students develop essential skills such as critical thinking, data analysis, problem-solving, and effective communication.

What topics will the pupils be studying in each year?

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Map Skills	Coastal Landscapes	Tectonic Hazards
Tropical Rainforest	Settlement and Urbanisation	USA
Economic Development	Weather and climate	Glaciation

Year 10 Landscapes of the UK: Physical landscapes Geomorphic processes River landscapes Coastal landscapes	Year 11 Ecosystems of the planet: Global Ecosystems Tropical Rainforest Coral Reef
People of the UK: UK's trading partners Diversity in the UK Development in the UK UK's population Urban trends in the UK	People of the Planet: Global development Uneven Development Ethiopia Global urbanisation
UK Environmental challenges: Extreme weather Resources Ecosystems Energy sources	Environmental Threats: Climate change Atmospheric circulation Extreme weather events
Geographical skills and fieldwork	Geographical skills and fieldwork

Year 12	Year 13
Coastal Landscapes	Earth's Life Support Systems (Ecosystems)

Changing Spaces, making places (Urban)	Global Migration
Hazardous earth	Power and Borders
Geographical Skills Independent Investigation	Disease Dilemmas Geographical Skills

What key skills will the pupils develop over time?

Studying geography develops a versatile skill set that prepares students to excel in various careers and adapt to a rapidly changing world. By integrating knowledge from both the natural and social sciences geography fosters critical thinking, problem-solving, and practical competencies that are highly valued by employers.

Transferable Skills for Employment

1. Data Analysis and Interpretation:
2. Problem-Solving and Decision-Making:
3. Communication Skills:
4. Research and Investigative Abilities:
5. Teamwork and Collaboration:

How are all pupils learning in this subject?

The geography curriculum is designed to support students of all abilities by integrating the principles of the EEF (Education Endowment Foundation) drivers, ensuring a structured yet challenging learning environment that fosters progress for all. Students develop a wide range of essential skills and knowledge, including:

- **Subject Knowledge and Understanding:**
Deep insights into challenges facing society and the environment, equipping students to engage meaningfully with contemporary global issues.
- **Specialist Skills:**
Proficiency in statistical, spatial, and environmental analysis, along with both quantitative and qualitative research methods.
- **Independent Thinking:**
Strong analytical and research skills, critical thinking, and the ability to evaluate evidence across both social and natural sciences.
- **Data Literacy and Communication:**
Expertise in collecting, interpreting, and presenting complex data to a variety of audiences effectively and confidently.
- **Problem-Solving and Perspective-Taking:**
A determination to tackle problems and explore major global issues at multiple scales, considering diverse viewpoints.
- **Collaboration and Teamwork:**
Experience working in teams, particularly during field research, fostering interpersonal and cooperative skills.

- **Curiosity and Investigative Skills:**
A keen interest in understanding how the world works, exploring contemporary issues, and engaging with different cultures.
- **Positive Attitudes and Lifelong Learning:**
A proactive and collaborative approach to learning, emphasizing resilience, adaptability, and respect for others.

Through this comprehensive approach, geography prepares students not only for academic success but also for making informed and impactful contributions to society.

How are pupils assessed in this subject?

The geography curriculum is designed to engage students with new content while developing and refining their geographical skills through diverse and interactive methods. This approach supports robust and varied opportunities for assessing student progress.

Assessment Opportunities

Students' understanding and skills are evaluated through a range of methods, including:

- **Formal Written Assessments:** Testing knowledge and application of key geographical concepts.
- **Classroom Discussions:** Encouraging active participation and critical thinking.
- **Classroom Debates:** Fostering analytical skills and the ability to present arguments effectively.
- **Investigative and Research Tasks:** Promoting independent inquiry and problem-solving.
- **Decision-Making Exercises:** Enhancing evaluative skills and real-world application of geography.
- **Creative and Design Tasks:** Encouraging innovative thinking and geographical expression.

Structured Reflection and Review

All students receive detailed written feedback on their performance, accompanied by structured opportunities to review and reflect on their work. This reflective process helps students identify strengths, address areas for improvement, and set goals for further progress.

Student work is marked and reviewed using the CAN system, focusing on where the work Complete, Accurate and Neat and making corrections developing good practice for the future.

How can pupils progress in this subject?

The Key Stage 3 geography curriculum introduces students to key geographical processes and human interactions through engaging and creative activities. It lays a strong foundation

for GCSE studies, with topics serving as a bridge to deeper exploration at Key Stages 4 and 5.

GCSE Geography provides a solid pathway to A-Level Geography, complementing science A-levels or BTECs by linking natural and social sciences. At A-Level, geography is a highly regarded subject, offering academic rigor and connections to diverse Higher Education courses and careers.

Career Opportunities

Geography opens doors to a wide range of careers, including:

- Urban and regional planning
- Environmental management and consultancy
- Geospatial analysis (GIS)
- Education and academia
- International development
- Business and logistics
- Policy-making and public administration

How can pupils enrich their knowledge and understanding in this subject?

Local and National Visits:

- Trips to places like Muncaster Castle, St. Bees, and the Holderness Coast allow students to study physical and human geography in real-world settings, such as coastal processes, heritage and economic change.
- Visits to Leeds and Manchester provide insights into urban development, regeneration, and economic geography.

International Trips:

- The 2027 trip to Iceland offers a unique opportunity to study volcanic landscapes, geothermal energy, and glacial processes in one of the most geologically fascinating countries.

Theatre Trips:

- Linking Geography to cultural aspects by attending plays or performances that explore themes like environmental issues and social change.

Wider School Participation

- Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award:
Geography staff's involvement in DofE provides students with opportunities to enhance skills like map reading, orienteering, and teamwork in outdoor environments.
- Ski Trips:
Participation in ski trips allows students to explore mountain environments and understand tourism and sustainable practices in alpine regions.

Enrichment Activities

- In-School Enrichment Programs: The Geography staff play an active role in the running of the very popular Mountain biking club and climbing option.