



## GEOGRAPHY

### **Why is the study of Geography important?**

Geography is the study of Earth's landscapes, peoples, places and environments. It is about the world in which we live and its study will make you question how and why the world is changing, globally and locally but also, how human actions can complicate and exacerbate natural changes and events. Geography will encourage you to think about the vast number of physical and human connections that exist within our world and about the pressures that the world's natural environments face. From Year 7 you will have the exciting opportunity to understand the natural processes that affect millions of people every year like volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and tsunamis, how climate change is affecting populations and how population change is itself affecting different countries. Geography allows you to study a wide range of topics from across the globe and enables you to develop a wide range of skills that you will use to interpret the world around you and understand how we can make changes that will have implications on a variety of scales, from your local area to the whole world! Your study of Geography will encourage you to think deeply and help you more effectively make links to other subjects like Science and Maths, great life skills that all universities and employers will appreciate.

Across your study you will explore Physical, Human and Environmental Geography. You will gain an understanding of why countries are at different levels of development and the impact that this has on the populations and environments of those countries. You will understand the physical and human factors that cause and contribute to natural disasters and the importance of natural resources, ecosystems and economic links around the world. Lessons will provide a wide range of opportunities for group work, role play, independent research and will encourage you to challenge yourself to suggest solutions to problems faced around the world. Geography is both creative and problem solving and your Geography classroom will be brimming with opportunities to explore the world through images, film clips, stories of personal experiences and of course, maps! You will engage with questions such as 'Does aid help or hinder the development of lower income countries?' Why do people live in dangerous places? How can we be more environmentally friendly? Why are global businesses important? How can the quality of life of the poorest people in the world be improved? You will have the chance to ask questions about what is changing in the UK and about your local environment, to study it more closely by collecting data and analysing it to find out what it tells you. Seems challenging - you are going to love it! Geography will widen your horizons!

Big Questions such as how do our individual actions contribute to positive and negative physical and human changes like climate change, habitat loss, pollution and development are key aspects of what we study in Geography. You will investigate different sources of information to answer these big questions including data that shows us distinct patterns from which we can identify both the causes and possible solutions to some of the biggest challenges our world faces in the future. I bet you can't wait to get started...

### **What skills will the study of Geography teach you?**

You are a citizen in this world and you need to know how to analyse a variety of sources of information, to be able to use data to identify key patterns. It will teach you to...

- interpret maps, diagrams, photographs and satellite images
- see patterns in our everyday lives and in the environments around us
- use Geographical Information Systems to explain geographic information
- collect primary data through fieldwork and about what secondary data is relevant and reliable
- present data using a wide variety of maps, graphs and diagrams
- understand how modelling can help us predict changes
- develop detailed written arguments that incorporate evidence
- solve problems
- use a variety of maths skills to help interpret geographical information and explain events and patterns
- recognise the strengths and weaknesses of data
- evaluate the usefulness of information
- assess the effectiveness of different data collection methods and data presentation techniques
- write strong arguments and use evidence to convince others of your viewpoint

### **What will you know and understand from your study of Geography?**

- The basic physical systems that affect everyday life e.g. our weather and climate, plate tectonics, water and nutrient cycles, wind and atmospheric currents.
- You will learn the location of places and the physical and cultural characteristics of different places
- You will improve your understanding of why our world is so interconnected and how technology is changing the geography of the planet.
- We will understand the geography of the past and how geography has played important roles in the way people develop their ideas to understand places and environments.
- You will develop a detailed knowledge and understanding of a wide range and scale of places including your local area, your country and the world so that you can understand where places are, why events happen and what impact the location of these events might have
- You will be able to explain how the processes of human (e.g. urbanisation) and physical systems (e.g. weather and climate) have organised and sometimes changed the surface of the Earth.
- You will understand and recognise the spatial organisation of population globally and in the UK.
- You will use your understanding of spatial distributions at all scales — local and worldwide — in order to understand the complex connectivity of people and places.
- You will learn to evaluate sensible evidence driven judgements about how people and the environment interact.
- You will be able to apply your knowledge in order to suggest wise management decisions about how the planet's resources should be used.
- You will gain a better understanding of global interdependence and to become a better global citizen.

## **How does your study of Geography support your study in other subjects?**

Study of any subject in our curriculum takes full advantage of links with other subject areas- we term these as interdisciplinary links and we make the most of them because we know that deep learning requires the transference of knowledge and skills from one topic of learning to another. Once you can transfer your learning across topics and subject areas then you are really mastering what you know and how to apply your understanding and skills.

Geography touches on so many other subjects such as Science, where there are lots of overlaps with topics like ecosystems, tectonics and climate change. Our links with Maths including the use of graphical and statistical skills to analyse and interpret data so we can see patterns that we can explain. Geography shares the use and interpretation of texts and the development of written skills with English, and with History, the use of sources and the interrogation of them to consider whether they are reliable and how best to use them to back up our arguments. Geography is the perfect subject to link together the 'arts' with the sciences. You will learn methods of thinking and research that are widely applicable to other subject areas which will help to develop your thinking in all subjects.

Across the teaching of subjects, teachers will refer to your learning in other areas such as Geography and this will help you to develop your understanding. There are even opportunities to apply this learning in Y7 and 8 when interdisciplinary study days are organised to deepen your understanding across the curriculum when our geography and science departments work together to explore ecosystems or natural hazards

## **How are you assessed in Geography?**

Throughout the Geography course you are assessed using the following assessment objectives which ensure that you can cumulatively build your subject understanding in preparation for future GCSE and A Level study. There are 6 assessment points each year that we term Praising Stars. We assess how students at their current stage of study are on track to reach their end of stage targets which are formulated on aspirational expectation from their KS2 starting points. We make an informed prediction from our holistic assessments based on our subject mapping of expectation across the Geography curriculum.

### **Key Assessment Objectives**

#### **AO1**

- Demonstrating knowledge of locations, places, processes and environments at different scales. Question types could include describe, give, define, outline or name.

#### **AO2**

- Demonstrates geographical understanding of concepts and interrelationships in relation to places, environments and processes. Question types could include explain why, outline the reasons for, compare.

#### **AO3**

- Apply knowledge and understanding in a new context
- Question types could include interpret, analyse, evaluate and make a judgement or decision.

## **AO4**

- Select, adapt and use a variety of skills and techniques to investigate questions and issues and communicate findings.

Question types could include 'how many, describe, calculate, complete this graph to show, using figure 9...'

### **How can Geography support your future?**

We offer the study of GCSE and A Level Geography and we encourage your continued study in this fantastic subject. Yet we know that choice and personal interest are important aspects of worthy study. Whether you have continued your study of Geography into GCSE or A level or not you will have gained access to this enriching subject and its study will have taught you to think differently and deeply.

The very fact that Geography develops such a wide range of transferable skills such as analysis, interpretation and the use of statistical techniques to explore a wide range of data will help your future application be they for colleges, universities, apprenticeships or employment.

Geography is offered at most prestigious universities either as a single honours or a joint honours subject studied alongside other disciplines e.g. BA Geography and Economics, Geography and Sociology, Geography and Management (University of Leeds), Social Sciences including Geography (Liberal Arts Degree at University of Durham). Students of Geography will usually continue to study physical and human aspects of the subject but you can then opt for units that particularly interest you.

The study of Geography can be a spring board into a huge range of career choices because of the transferable skills you will develop. Students who study Geography are among the most employable people and according to the UK's higher education statistics, Geography graduates are among the least likely to be unemployed after their degree. Of specific note are the analytical and IT based Geographical skills that Geography students develop.

Geographers fulfil a wide range of careers:

- Financial services
- Planning
- Working in the environment, environmental law, environmental engineering
- Travel and tourism
- International charities
- Retail
- International relations
- GIS

- Management
- Environmental Health Technician
- Transport
- GIS officer
- Environmental Adviser
- Sales Recruitment Consultant
- GIS Technician/Analyst
- Data Quality Officer

