



Curriculum Statement: Geography

The study of geography is about more than just memorising places on a map. It's about understanding the complexity of the world, appreciating the diversity of cultures that exists across continents. And in the end, it's about using all that knowledge to help bridge divides and bring people together. – Barack Obama

Curriculum Rationale

Our geography curriculum is designed to be knowledge-rich, providing students with powerful academic models and the intellectual challenge needed to make sense of the world around them. We have a broad range of topics to provide breadth but have designed a curriculum whereby each topic and year group focuses in depth on a world region or particular country. We place a strong emphasis on developing secure locational knowledge of their local area and beyond, so that pupils can confidently situate places, patterns, and processes at a range of scales. Alongside this, we equip students with essential cartographic skills, enabling them to interpret maps with accuracy and insight.

We foster numeracy through the analysis of data, statistics, and spatial patterns, and literacy through extended writing, the use of geographical vocabulary, and the articulation of arguments, evaluation and decision-making. The geography fieldwork cycle is central to our approach, offering opportunities to apply disciplinary knowledge in real-world contexts and to think like geographers.

Our curriculum also nurtures cultural awareness, helping students to appreciate diverse perspectives and experiences across the globe, while building environmental awareness so that they can engage critically with the challenges of sustainability and stewardship. Through this intent, we aim to inspire curious, informed, and responsible young people who can understand and contribute to the world they live in.

Curriculum Progression & Strategies

We explicitly teach metacognitive strategies such as SEEP, CLOCC and HLGTA to ensure that learners develop a structure of geographical reasoning. This has a high impact rating based on extensive evidence (EEF toolkit). To ensure excellent progress for all learners, we prioritise inclusive participation in every lesson, for example with mini whiteboards, which enable all students to engage actively and demonstrate their understanding. Assessment for Learning is embedded throughout our teaching, with regular true-or-false questions used to quickly and effectively check knowledge and address misconceptions.

Progress over time is monitored through Key Marked Pieces completed once per half-term. These consistently assess core geographical skills and knowledge, including mapwork, graph interpretation, knowledge recall, and the ability to construct and evaluate arguments. To support subject-specific literacy, we provide glossaries for all topics, and oracy and vocabulary are enhanced through our 'Say it better' strategy and our morphemes, prefixes and suffixes display.

Learning is further strengthened beyond the classroom using Seneca, which we employ both for retrieval practice and as a tool for flipped learning, helping students to consolidate prior knowledge and prepare for new content in advance.

Curriculum Enrichment

- Weekly KS3 Geography Club
- Y10 fieldwork in Henley-in-Arden
- Y10 residential to Jurassic Coast
- Regular, annual contribution to summer school activities