

Curriculum Rationale

Subject: Geography

Year 9

Key Stage 4

Intent

Geography stimulates a sense of wonder about the world:

Geography students are better able to make sense of a complex and changing world and their place in it. In geography, students have the opportunity to:

- build on and expand their personal experiences of natural and cultural environments
- explore real and relevant contemporary contexts
- think spatially – explore the ways in which features are arranged on the earth's surface
- look at the processes that shape our world
- undertake fieldwork investigations in different locations outside the classroom
- develop an awareness of the connections between people and places
- participate in informed responsible action in relation to geographic issues that affect them

Geography inspires students to help shape a better future:

By studying geography, students are able to recognise the responsibilities they have in relation to other people, the environment, and the long-term sustainability of the planet. Geography encourages students to think critically as they:

- investigate contemporary geographic issues and consider possible solutions
- explore the various perspectives of different groups of people
- investigate important issues of relevance to the United Kingdom and the wider world

Geography equips students with skills for the future:

The study of Geography enables students to become active, responsible and informed citizens able to evaluate the opinions of others and express their own ideas and arguments. This forms a basis for active participation in community life, a commitment to sustainability, the creation of a just society, and the promotion of intercultural understanding and lifelong learning. The skills and capabilities developed through geographical study can be applied to further education, work and everyday life.

Implementation

In year 9 students are given the foundation needed to access the rigours of the GCSE syllabus. They are taught using a thematic approach where many different areas of the required curriculum are connected using a common theme. The advantage of this interleaved system is that it enables the teaching of multiple things at one time. Students are taught to constantly make connections between the topics and apply them to the assessment questions.

Topics studied in year 9 include:

- Population dynamics
- Globalisation
- Nigeria
- Tectonic hazards

The GCSE course is based on a balanced framework of physical and human geography. It allows students to investigate the links between the two themes and examine the conflicts between the man-made and natural world.

During Years 10 and 11, students participate in two compulsory fieldtrips; investigating the impact of urban regeneration in Portsmouth and investigating the impact of coastal erosion and management. During these visits students collect a range of primary data which is then presented and analysed in the classroom. These sets of data are required for Paper three of the GCSE examination. Paper three also requires the students study a pre-released case study. This information is used by the student during the examination for a decision making exercise.

Students are continually assessed using GCSE examination questions. Students reflect and act upon their written feedback during DIRT tasks, ensuring the feedback is being put to use and is supporting the progress of the students. The students participate in Pre-public examinations during year 11. This not only gives the students the experience of participating in examination conditions, but also supports in identifying gaps in their knowledge prior to the final GCSE examinations. Students are supported with their preparation / revision for the final examination through a range of mediums from knowledge organisers, targeted revision classes (both during lessons and after school), and access to revision guides.

The content of the GCSE curriculum is based on real-life case studies that enables students of all abilities to learn and develop a range of geographical skills as well as academic life skills from writing, teamwork and communication to analytical skills. These skills enable the students to be confident young people; helping them to become college and career ready.

The GCSE syllabus includes:

- The challenge of natural hazards
- The living world
- Physical landscapes
- Urban issues and challenges
- The changing economic world
- The challenge of resource management
- Issues evaluation
- Fieldwork

How can parents support their child's learning at home?

Parents to help students by discussing their learning of Geography at home; by considering relevant and topical news and current events and discuss the impacts of them on the world as a family; regularly ask about home learning that has been set; consider family days out that incorporate Geographical skills! Orienteering and Geocaching are cheap and an excellent activity you can do as a family, whilst also improving your children OS map skills!