

Information on the Geography Department

Accommodation and resources

This is a strong and dynamic department. We have four full time teachers of geography and we share a teaching block with the English Department. The department is well resourced with a variety of textbooks and equipment. We have access to laptops which are used with all key stages. All of the geography teaching rooms have projectors and Smartboards. Many of our resources are shared and are stored on the school's computer system. We pride ourselves on our friendliness and work very much as a team.

Geography is a popular subject and pupils achieve well at all stages. There is a large uptake of geography at both GCSE and A level. Every member of staff teaches a range of sets throughout the different year groups.

The Curriculum

Key Stage 3

Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils have three hours of Geography lessons every two weeks. Pupils in Year 7 are taught in their mixed ability form group. Pupils in Year 8 & 9 are taught in mixed ability groups.

Year 7	OS map skills, British Isles map work, weather and climate, climate change, onsite fieldwork and country study of Russia.
Year 8	Rainforests and deserts, volcanoes and earthquakes, a study of development through the book 'Factfulness' and a country study of Uganda.
Year 9	Geography of conflict, geomorphology and how this shapes our planet, two country studies; China and Bolivia.

We have full and detailed schemes of work to follow through Key Stage 3. Within this, however, we have a fairly flexible approach to teaching; we will adapt our teaching to include relevant topical events as they occur. We like to try out a variety of teaching and learning techniques to keep both our pupils and ourselves interested in geography. We use a variety of teaching materials within lessons and all classes have access to the Oxford book series Geog 1, 2 and 3.

Pupils work in exercise books. We assess pupils by regularly marked homework and a variety of department assignments and tests.

Key Stage 4

Geography is a very popular option choice at this level. We follow the OCR Geography A (Geographical themes) syllabus. We mainly use OCR's approved Geographical

Themes textbooks, but also include work and case studies from a variety of other texts. Pupils are taught for 5 hours during the two week timetable cycle.

Our GCSE results are good and in line with national trends. We assess pupils by regularly marked homework and tests. Pupils are assessed on a linear basis at the end of Year 11.

A level

There is a strong uptake of students at this level and we enjoy continued success in their achievements. We follow the Edexcel syllabus and support this by using a wide variety of texts and resources. Teaching is divided into human and physical modules and is taught by three different teachers.

Many A level students carry on to study geography (or related subjects) at higher education.

Fieldwork

At Key Stage 3 we use a variety of local fieldwork opportunities. We encourage an enquiry approach to our work. Year 7 carry out a traffic survey and map microclimates around the school site, Year 8 have a visit from Zoolab to support our unit of work on rainforests. Year 9 are taken to a Kew Gardens towards the end of the year to support their transition to GCSE.

We take our GCSE pupils to the Norfolk coast for two days of fieldwork. This work is used to prepare for their Geographical Skills exam, which contributes to 40% of their final grade.

At A level we spend a week at a residential centre in the UK, normally Snowdonia, North Wales.

We complete a day of fieldwork with Year 13 in London, to support the students' study of regeneration and globalisation.