

Subject: Geography

Curriculum vision

The purpose of the geography curriculum is to inspire curiosity in pupils, and a fascination about the world and its people. Geography provides pupils with knowledge of diverse places, people, resources, and natural and human environments, with a deep understanding of the Earth's physical and human processes. The geography curriculum prepares pupils for each stage of their academic journey but also the world beyond the classroom by ensuring that young people can think like geographers and use their geographical knowledge to make sense of the world around them.

The curriculum has been carefully sequenced to introduce pupils to a variety of places, geographical concepts, processes, and issues. The thematic approach ensures that knowledge is acquired, developed over time, then applied via in-depth case studies. As pupils' knowledge and understanding develop within a unit, there are opportunities to apply this understanding via decision-making activities and geographical enquiries. This approach ensures that pupils are given every opportunity to apply their understanding and think like geographers.



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Curriculum Overview



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Term 1	Autumn 1	Why this? Why now?	Autumn 2	Why this? Why now?
Year 7	Introduction to Geographical Skills and Introduction to Global Climate	Year 7 Geographers start the year by gaining key Geographical skills and knowledge, allowing them to unlock their Geographical thinking. These are built on throughout the rest of their studies. Year 7 Geographers then learn about planet Earth's different climatic zones and biomes, including the reasons why the planet's climate is changing. This provides a foundation of key geographical knowledge which is extremely beneficial in the next unit (Development). Introduction to Global Climate also allows our students to begin developing their critical and geographical thinking skills, which are then built upon throughout their time studying Geography at the Academies.	Development	Year 7 Geographers continue to think globally during this unit. Students study the causes, impacts and management of uneven development, through a variety of countries and key ideas such as development indicators, AID and trade. This module has close links with all other topics.
Year 8	Population	Year 8 pupils start to understand the world through the distribution, make up, and changes in the world's population. The unit has close links to Year 7 content and begins to draw upon students' previous knowledge linking to geographical skills and development.	Coasts	Year 8 geographers will develop an understanding of the physical processes along the coastline. Ideas such as erosion, transportation and deposition will be revisited in the formation of coastal landforms. Furthermore, pupils will learn about the interactions between the coastal environment, development, population and natural hazards. This unit concludes with a local link to Bournemouth.
Year 9	Climate Change	Year 9 geographers start the year by studying climate change. Previous topics such as development, population, coasts and rivers all feature in this unit that analyses the causes, effects and management of climate change. This unit addresses one of the key aims of geography, which is for students to make links between natural and human environments.	Life in an NEE	Students learn about Newly Emerging Economies (NEEs), considering the key shared characteristics of NEEs such as rapid economic development, rural to urban migration, investment from TNCs and rising living standards. This is studied through a range of case studies from the BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India and China) and MINT economies (Mexico, Indonesia, Nigeria, Turkey). Students finish the unit by assessing the social, economic and environmental impact of global companies.
Year 10	The Changing Economic World	Year 10 geographers start their GCSE journey learning about the changes in development over space and time. This gives them a lens to understand their knowledge from KS3 and gives them excellent understanding in development for units moving forward.	The Changing Economic World	Year 10 geographers start their GCSE journey learning about the changes in development over time and space. This gives them a lens to understand their knowledge from KS3 and gives them excellent understanding development in units moving forward. Students apply their knowledge to the UK and India case studies.
Year 11	Urban Issues and Challenges	Students study one of the key drivers behind the geography of the modern world, urbanisation. Where they will be exposed to past, present and future changes shaping the world. This will enable them to re-visit many of the key themes from The Changing	The challenge of Natural Hazards	Year 11 geographers start by studying the causes, effects and management of natural hazards such as volcanoes, earthquakes, tropical storms and Climate Change. They will then bring in their knowledge about development, the urban world, and coasts to explore the varying effects of natural hazards in the past, present and future.



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		Economic World and further better their understanding of human geography.		
Year 12	Coasts and Diverse places	<p>This unit further builds on what students have learned in Years 8 and 10. It also provides opportunity to engage with coastal issues in our local area. Bournemouth is a good case study as there is a lot of diversity in the area. We are ideally placed to draw comparison with urban and rural areas.</p> <p>These topics are studied first to provide the knowledge base needed for high quality and successful fieldwork to be completed in the spring term.</p>	Coasts and Diverse places	<p>This unit further builds on what students have learned in Years 8 and 10. It also provides opportunity to engage with coastal issues in our local area. Bournemouth is a good case study as there is a lot of diversity in the area. We are ideally placed to draw comparison with urban and rural areas.</p> <p>These topics are studied first to provide the knowledge base needed for high quality and successful fieldwork to be completed in the spring term.</p>
Year 13	Water and Superpowers and NEA	<p>The NEA is completed in autumn term as it makes use of data students have collected over summer. Students are building on skills they have developed on data presentation in both Key Stage 3 and 4. These same skills and techniques will be even further developed for Paper 3. The NEA is intermingled between subject lessons.</p> <p>The unit on Superpowers is taught here to consolidate and build on the knowledge students already have on globalisation and the economy.</p> <p>The Water unit further builds on what has been taught in year 7 and 10 in Rivers, and year 8 in the Climate topic. The knowledge developed here will be revisited and built on at the end of the Carbon unit, which makes links between both units.</p>	Carbon and Superpowers and NEA	<p>The NEA is completed in autumn term as it makes use of data students have collected over summer. Students are building on skills they have developed on data presentation in both Key Stage 3 and 4. These same skills and techniques will be even further developed for Paper 3. The NEA is intermingled between subject lessons.</p> <p>The unit on Superpowers is taught here to consolidate and build on the knowledge students already have on globalisation and the economy.</p> <p>Carbon develops on units in KS3 and 4 and links into the water topic taught in the previous term.</p>



Term 2	Spring 1	Why this? Why now?	Spring 2	Why this? Why now?
Year 7	Water and rivers	Pupils gain knowledge here to help understand rivers and flooding. This builds on development as students investigate why the impact of flooding is more severe in LICs than HICs and develop their geographical skills by using maps and images to understand the causes, impacts, and management, of rivers. This unit is brought to life with case studies from the UK and abroad. This unit also provides students with a foundation of key physical processes, such as erosion, transportation, and deposition.	The World of Work	In this unit, students begin to understand the economic impact of working and how connections are made across the planet through trade. Furthermore, students gain an understanding of the different types of work that populations do and the strong connection between sectors of industry and development levels. This unit builds upon, and draws from, the knowledge students gained in the development module earlier in the year. This unit has further strong connections to the Population unit in year 8, and What is an NEE? in year 9.
Year 8	Ecosystems	Students will be introduced to the different biomes around the world learning about the key characteristics and features of each before looking at the Polar biome in more detail. Students will begin to understand how animals and plants have adapted to their environments as well as the impact of humans on the world's ecosystems. Students will finish the unit with an understanding of the importance of managing ecosystems sustainably. Fundamentally this unit draws upon the introduction to global climate unit in year 7.	Tectonics	Students will be introduced to natural hazards, specifically tectonic hazards. They will develop a basic understanding of tectonic theory before applying to the context of LIC and HIC case studies. Students will also develop an understanding of the monitoring and management strategies in place to reduce the impact of hazards. Students will interleave knowledge from development and population to support their understanding of the impacts of tectonic hazards.
Year 9	Global Health	This unit draws together units such as development, population, climate change and life in an NEE and studies the world through the lens of health. Students learn about the causes, impacts and management strategies of disease.	Fieldwork Investigation	In the second half of Spring 2, students will develop their fieldwork skills, building on the processes learnt in previous years, by investigating around the school site looking at environmental quality. In this unit, students will spend time evaluating the investigation and suggesting methods of improvement, further developing their ability to be both critical and analytical.
Year 10	The UK's Physical landscapes	Students study physical landscapes in the UK which brings the geographer 'closer to home'. Also by studying the natural world it offers students a variety of human and physical geography in their first two terms of study. This enables them to think like geographer as they make links between the natural and man-made world.	The UK's Physical landscapes	Students study physical landscapes in the UK which brings the geographer 'closer to home'. Also by studying the natural world it offers students a variety of human and physical geography in their first two terms of study. This enables them to think like geographer as they make links between the natural and man-made world.
Year 11	The living world	This unit will build on prior knowledge and understanding from the previous topics so students can assess the causes, effects, and management of different two major biomes tropical rainforests and hot deserts.	The living world	This unit will build on prior knowledge and understanding from the previous topics so students can assess the causes, effects, and management of different two major biomes tropical rainforests and hot deserts.



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Year 12	Tectonics, Globalisation and Fieldwork	<p>These core topics develop student understanding of tectonics gained in year 8 and at GCSE. This allows them to build on their understanding of plate margins and tectonic hazards. It also allows them to expand on their knowledge learning about hazard profiling and PAR models.</p> <p>The Globalisation unit consolidates and builds on what students have learned about development and population in years 7,8 and at GCSE. A lot of the content of this topic is needed and referred to when students go on to look at the Superpower unit.</p> <p>Fieldwork is taught in the spring term to prepare them for NEAs. Here they learn physical and human data collection techniques, as well completing risk assessment and designing their own data collection sheets.</p>	Tectonics, Globalisation and Fieldwork	<p>These core topics develop student understanding of tectonics gained in year 8 and at GCSE. This allows them to build on their understanding of plate margins and tectonic hazards. It also allows them to expand on their knowledge learning about hazard profiling and PAR models.</p> <p>The Globalisation unit consolidates and builds on what students have learned about development and population in years 7,8 and at GCSE. A lot of the content of this topic is needed and referred back to when students go on to look at the Superpower unit.</p> <p>Fieldwork is taught in the spring term to prepare them for NEAs. Here they learn physical and human data collection techniques, as well completing risk assessment and designing their own data collection sheets.</p>
Year 13	Superpowers and Health, Human Rights and Intervention	<p>The unit on Superpowers is taught here to consolidate and build on the knowledge students already have on globalisation and the economy.</p> <p>The knowledge on Health and Human Rights builds on understanding of development that students gained in year 7 and at GCSE. For students who look to pursue a career in development, these units have proved useful for university applications and career progression.</p>	Superpowers and Health, Human Rights and Intervention Paper 3 preparation	<p>The unit on Superpowers is taught here to consolidate and build on the knowledge students already have on globalisation and the economy.</p> <p>The knowledge on Health and Human Rights builds on understanding of development that students gained in year 7 and at GCSE. For students who look to pursue a career in development, these units have proved useful for university applications and career progression.</p> <p>Paper 3 builds on all the skills that have been taught over the entire of year 12 and 13. Teaching it here enables us to practise exam skills as close to the exam as possible.</p>



Term 3	Summer 1	Why this? Why now?	Summer 2	Why this? Why now?
Year 7	The Middle East	In this unit, the history of the Middle East is examined, drawing on, and then building upon, the student's knowledge gained from the development unit and the causes of uneven development. Knowledge gained in this module is then useful to our students as they progress into year 8, specifically within the population module.	Flooding Fieldwork Investigation	Pupils draw on their knowledge of rivers to undertake a fieldwork investigation on the school site. This unit brings student's rivers knowledge to life, testing the theory that they have been taught, and allows them to develop their skills of thinking critically as Geographers.
Year 8	Weather and Climate	In this unit students are introduced to differing weather and climate patterns across the planet, and the causes of these. This unit builds upon knowledge gained in previous units, such as rivers (year 7) and coasts (year 8).	Geography of East Africa	Year 8 geographers will develop knowledge and understanding of the geography of East Africa. The unit aims to synthesise key topics from year 8 assessing the physical landscape, the different biomes and impacts of migration within East Africa. The unit will further pull in aspects of tectonics as students develop their understanding of the 'The Great Rift Valley.'
Year 9	Global Biomes	Pupils study small scale ecosystems and the world's major biomes. This enables them to apply their knowledge from KS3 to a range of real-life examples and different environments. Students will interleave knowledge from life in an NEE, climate change and development to think critically about the interaction between the human and physical environment.	Global Biomes	Pupils study small scale ecosystems and the world's major biomes. This enables them to apply their knowledge from KS3 to a range of real-life examples and different environments. Students will interleave knowledge from life in an NEE, climate change and development to think critically about the interaction between the human and physical environment.
Year 10	Urban Issues and Challenges	Students study one of the key drivers behind the geography of the modern world, urbanisation. Where they will be exposed to past, present and future changes shaping the world. This will enable them to re-visit many of the key themes from The Changing Economic World and further better their understanding of human geography.	Resource Management & Fieldwork Investigation	Students will end the year developing their knowledge of the challenges of resource management. This unit is well placed for students to use their previous knowledge and understanding to think like a geographer as they study the availability of resources on a global and national scale and look at the impact of water insecurity on people, the economy and the environment. During this term students will complete their fieldwork and develop their geographical skills conducting a physical and human investigation in and around Swanage. They will revisit many of the key concepts that have underpinned their study at KS3/4 such as coasts and urban environments and test out hypothesis in the real world.
Year 11	Issues evaluation (pre-release)	The course concludes with an issues evaluation. Students will be proposed with a real-life geographical issue that will be evaluated by considering the varying social, economic and environmental impacts on a wide range of stakeholders in the issue. Students and teachers will		



		not know the topic of this issues until it is released by exam board, just 12 weeks before the exam but it provides an excellent opportunity for students to build upon their previous knowledge and understanding to think like a geographer about a relevant geographical issue.		
Year 12	<p>Tectonics and globalisation</p> <p>NEAs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Selection of titles and hypothesis• Reviewing the literature <p>Writing up their literature review</p>	<p>Students start their NEAs by building upon their fieldwork studies at GCSE. Students are taught what is required for the NEA, and useful skills such as how to complete a literature review and reference sources correctly. Students are taught these skills and supported in choosing a topic, and forming questions, to enable them to collect their own data over the summer.</p>	<p>Tectonics and globalisation</p> <p>NEAs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deciding on data collection methods and completing data collection sheets ready to collection in the summer.• Writing up their methodology <p>Revision for UCAS mocks</p>	<p>Students start their NEAs by building upon their fieldwork studies at GCSE. Students are taught what is required for the NEA, and useful skills such as how to complete a literature review and reference sources correctly. Students are taught these skills and supported in choosing a topic, and forming questions, to enable them to collect their own data over the summer.</p>
Year 13	<p>Paper 3 and revision</p>	<p>Paper 3 builds on all the skills that have been taught over the entire of year 12 and 13. Teaching it here enables us to practise exam skills as close to the exam as possible.</p> <p>Any remaining time is focussed on revision.</p>		



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Wider reading

Extracurricular Opportunities (competitions, associations and clubs)

Geographical Association, Physical geography student competition 2025. [Physical geography student photo competition - Geographical Association](#)
Royal Geographical Society, Understanding Islands competition 2025. [2025 competition - RGS](#)

Mondays 3.25 – 4.30pm: Key Stage 3 Club - Amazing Places

Wednesdays 3.45 – 4.30pm: Key Stage 4 Club - GCSE Revision and Support

Thursday 3.25pm - 4.30pm: Key Stage 5 Club - NEA Support & Revision

Revision Guides

KS3: [KS3 Geography Complete Revision & Practice \(with Online Edition\): superb for catch-up and learning at home \(CGP KS3 Humanities\) : CGP Books, CGP Books: Amazon.co.uk: Books](#)

KS4: [Grade 9-1 GCSE Geography Revision Guide: perfect for catch-up and the 2022 and 2023 exams \(CGP GCSE Geography 9-1 Revision\) : CGP Books, CGP Books: Amazon.co.uk: Books](#)

[New GCSE Geography AQA: Knowledge Organiser & Retriever Bundle \(for the 2022 and 2023 exams\): Amazon.co.uk: CGP: Books](#)

KS5: Prisoners of Geography (Tim Marshall), Factfulness, (Hans Rosling) This Changes Everything (Naomi Klein) How to avoid a climate disaster (Bill Gates) The Spirit Level (Kate Pickett)

[Geography for Edexcel A Level Year 1 and AS Student Book \(A Level Geography for Edexcel 2016\): Amazon.co.uk: Digby, Bob, Adams, Lynn, Chapman, Russell, Hurst, Catherine: 9780198366454: Books](#)

[Geography for Edexcel A Level Year 2 Student Book \(A Level Geography for Edexcel 2016\): Amazon.co.uk: Digby, Bob, Chapman, Russell, Cowling, Dan, Sampson, Simon: 9780198366485: Books](#)

Academic Reading

Geographical: [Geographical - Geographical Magazine](#)

Routes: [Routes – The Journal for Student Geographers \(routesjournal.org\)](#)

KS5: Wider reading set throughout the year as homework along with additional reading. The reading will vary to keep up to date with changing geographical situations in the world.