



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

At Cockshut Hill School our geography curriculum aims to inspire students to develop a fascination about the world in which they live. The curriculum enables our students to build their confidence and ask questions about the world around them, developing a holistic knowledge of geography in key stage three which embeds the foundations to build on at GCSE.

Through our curriculum our students can develop depth in their knowledge and understanding, ensuring they are able to build secure foundations whilst developing mastery at key geographical skills.

Geography is an excellent subject which encourages students to develop their critical thinking skills about the world in which we live, where students master their knowledge and understanding about the diversity of our planet. Geography has strong cross curricular links with a range of subjects, including, English, mathematics/statistics, science, religious education and history, developing a strong foundation for students' holistic knowledge and understanding.

Our curriculum topics expose our students to a range of physical geography and human geography content, all students investigate geography on global, national, and local scales. Our students also develop their knowledge and understanding of social, economic, and environmental impacts, through a range of place specific case studies. This sequencing ensures that all students, regardless of background experience, can access the curriculum and make sustained progress.

In year seven, the academic year begins with students developing their knowledge of 'Geographical Place and Space'. In the spring term students move on to the study of 'Africa', here students unpick misconceptions of Africa, developing their understanding of the continent in terms of its diversity, before moving onto developing an understanding of 'Changing Global Populations'. In the summer term students investigate 'The Global Climate Crisis', here students utilise the skills they have mastered throughout the academic year to critically examine how climate change impacts our planet and themselves.

In year eight, the academic year begins with the 'Watery World' topic, where students will develop an understanding of water, and how water shapes the planet. In the spring term students study the 'Middle East', unpicking misconceptions, and developing a deeper understanding of diversity in the Middle East, alongside the global importance of the region. In the summer term, the focus moves 'Natural Resources' and the many ways humans use the planet as a natural resource, students will learn about a range of culturally diverse populations and the way in which they use the planet, before comparing it to themselves. They will critically evaluate how humans use the planet and consider what is geographically ethical.

In year nine, the academic year begins with 'Our Unpredictable Planet', with students developing their knowledge of natural hazards, through this topic students will investigate whether humans can ever live risk free. In the spring term the focus is on the diversity and inequality in the 'America's'. In the summer term students focus on developing their own critical thinking skills, through the evaluation of a range of 'Contemporary Global Issues' ensuring students can ascertain the most appropriate methods that can be used to help humans save the planet.

The America's, Middle East and Africa units of study have been specifically written to incorporate a range of female and BAME perspectives. Sensitive content has been incorporated into the year seven curriculum to develop a deeper understanding of the plight of child soldiers in Africa, and why there are so many refugees because of conflict in Africa. The Middle East unit of study delves into the way of life and opportunities for females

in the region, and the perspectives of young people living in the United Arab Emirates. Journeying through the America's exposes our students to the concept of environmental racism following the notorious Hurricane Katrina. The key stage three provision embeds the skills, knowledge and understanding that enable our students to develop their self-awareness, ambition and determination to become successful global citizens of the future.

Curriculum Progression & Strategies

We want our students to take a responsible attitude towards the world, developing into critical thinkers with enquiring minds. We will achieve this by:

- Encouraging our students to; think like a geographer, speak like a geographer and to write like a geographer.
- Developing our student's knowledge and understanding of geographical concepts enabling them to appreciate the relevance of our changing world.
- Developing our student's spatial awareness, enabling them to appreciate the importance of the location of places and environments.
- Encouraging our students to appreciate the differences and similarities between people's views of the world, its environments, societies and cultures.
- Developing our students understanding of global issues, and how differing attitudes and values can impact the future of our planet.
- Developing our students understanding of their responsibilities as global citizens, encouraging them to recognise how they can contribute to the planet's future in a sustainable and inclusive manner.
- Encouraging our students to apply their knowledge and understanding of the real world through fieldwork and independent learning strategies.
- Developing our student's knowledge and understanding of geographical skills, appropriate technologies, enquiry, and analysis.

Curriculum Overview:

Year 7:

- AUT: Geographical Place and Space
- SPR: Africa
- SPR: Changing Global Populations
- SUM: The Global Climate Crisis

Year 8:

- AUT: Watery World
- SPR: The Middle East
- SUM: Natural Resources

Year 9:

- AUT: Our Unpredictable Planet
- SPR: The Americas
- SUM: Contemporary Global Issues

Curriculum Enrichment

Out of classroom activities are embedded in our curriculum overview, thus allowing all students the opportunity to participate and experience the real world through fieldwork.

Out of school fieldwork opportunities, include visits to Henley in Arden, Swanage, and International visits.