

GEOGRAPHY

KEY STAGE 3 AIMS

- To develop geographical skills and techniques, and to extend geographical vocabulary.
- To study contrasting environments and to explain some of the differences found.
- To describe, analyse and explain geographical processes and patterns.
- To become more familiar with the globe; where places are and their interdependence.
- To recognise issues and views of different people.

These key aims can be answered by:

“What is it?”

“Where is it?”

“What is it like?”

“How did it get like this?”

“How and why is it changing?”

“What are the implications?”

A wide variety of texts and other materials are available and an emphasis is placed on pupil-centred learning. Pupils are encouraged to participate in lessons and are often asked to undertake individual research using text books, atlases or the internet.

Homework is given on a regular basis. This, along with class work and half termly assessment tasks will allow a ‘level’ to be allocated confidently at the end of the Key Stage.

Particular attention is paid to the presentation and organization of work and pupils are expected to be equipped with all their writing materials in every lesson.



TOPICS TAUGHT IN YEAR 7

- My Geography – this topic looks at our place in the world at a variety of different scales, it attempts to develop an awareness of location.
- Map skills – with particular reference to 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey maps, this introduces the foundation of constructing and reading maps, scale, distance, direction, relief and grid references.
- Weather and Climate: this is a study of the recording, characteristics and causes of our weather and climate.
- Microclimate Enquiry - a detailed levelled independent enquiry based upon an investigation of the wider school environment.
- Climate Change and Global warming - this topic looks at our impact on the environment and methods of managing our development sustainably.
- Retail changes - how changes to the way people shop have led to out-of-town developments such as at McArthur Glen.



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TOPICS TAUGHT IN YEAR 8

- Hazards – A study of Hurricanes as an example of natural a hazard: their formation, tracking, effects and how different countries try to protect against them.
- Development – this topic looks at indicators which show levels of development within a country and between contrasting countries.
- Biomes and Ecosystems – this unit looks at the relationship between living and non-living things to create distinctive zones such as Rainforests and the plants and animals which have adapted to live in them.
- Sand Dune Ecosystems – this is an enquiry based investigation which follows up a visit to Kenfig Dunes.
- Coastal Landforms - this unit looks at coastal processes, landforms and management. It focuses on the physical processes as well as how humans are affected by them and attempt to manage the risks and effects.



TOPICS TAUGHT IN YEAR 9

- Plate Tectonics – A study of the structure of the Earth and the processes which change it.
- Volcanoes and Earthquakes – this topic continues from Plate Tectonics, to look at the hazards associated with Plate Boundaries, such as volcanoes, Earthquakes and tsunamis as well as their management.
- Population – investigates one of the most pressing issues facing the world today, including population change and management.
- Migration – this topic looks at the movement of people between countries and the impact that it has on the donor and recipient countries, including economic migrants and refugees.
- River Landforms – the final unit in key stage 3 investigates river processes, landforms and management. It focuses on the physical processes as well as how humans are affected by them and attempt to manage the risks and effects.



Fieldwork Visits