

Geography

Geography is a dynamic subject that helps us make sense of the world. The world that we live in is rapidly changing and it is through Geography that we are able to keep track, prepare and understand these changes.

The pupils have one hour of Geography per week in Upper 3 (Year 7) to Upper 4 (Year 9), where they are taught in a mixed ability class. We aim to make the lessons topical and interesting and they usually involve class discussion, interpreting data and sources, watching video clips and giving reasons for opinions.

In Upper 3 (Year 7), we study settlements, key skills (contour lines, grid references etc), and local case studies. This is followed by coasts, rivers and industry in Lower 4 (Year 8). As the pupils begin their study in Upper 4 (Year 9), we study natural hazards, ecosystems and distant locality case studies.

We encourage our pupils to ask questions and to make links between the work in class and their own experiences, whether they be through travel or through general information available online. Key skills are important as pupils must learn how to use a map, how to identify trends on a graph and how to interpret tabular data. The skills learnt in Geography are transferrable to so many other subjects, and to life in general.

Homework is set weekly for Geography with the tasks usually involving some research, or application of ideas studied within the lesson. The homework is usually due in for the next day, however, extended tasks and projects may also be set.

Fieldwork is an essential (and fun!) part of Geography. In previous years, our pupils have visited Aldeburgh to study coastal processes, Flatford Mill in Colchester to collect data in the river as well as the Chatham Green Project to study sustainable farming and habitats.

On a more local level, we have visited Norsey Woods to study the deciduous woodland ecosystem, and Chelmsford to study the regeneration of the High Street.