

How will pupils build upon what they have learnt in Key Stage Two?

Pupils have developed their geographical knowledge and understanding of the world, the United Kingdom and their locality during KS2. Key aspects of geography such as location (countries, continents and oceans) have been taught alongside aspects of human, physical and environmental geographies within small and large scale contexts. Geographical skills at KS2 are taught whereby pupils are using a variety of maps of different scale and thematic context. KS2 curriculums aim to develop and foster pupils' natural curiosity of the world around them, by encouraging fieldwork observations and investigative skills. Geography at Woodlands aims to consolidate and extend pupils knowledge of the world and develop understanding of the interconnectedness and increasing complexities of our human, physical and environmental worlds. Geographers consider our world to be at a pivotal environmental tipping point. Geography at Woodlands aims to provide pupils with the necessary skills of analysis to enable greater discussion of solutions towards sustainable futures in all aspects of life.

Why do we teach our pupils Geography?

- To develop pupils' natural curiosity about the world around them.
- To extend pupils' locational knowledge and deepen pupils' spatial awareness of places at a range of scales.
- To develop pupils' understanding of the increasing interconnectedness between places through the study of human, physical and environmental processes in a variety of local, regional, national and global locations.
- To understand how geographical processes interact to influence change in landscapes, environments and climate and how human activity relies on the effective functioning of natural systems.
- To encourage pupils to develop their geographical and investigative skills using sources and evidence of increasing complexity in order to analyse geographical data to draw conclusions.
- To allow pupils to have practical opportunities to learn new skills such as modern computer based mapping (Geographical Information Systems), map skills, fieldwork skills and the development of oracy (through debating and class discussions) and literacy skills (through extended writing).
- To prepare pupils for a life beyond Woodlands whereby they can use and apply geographical skills and knowledge in an increasingly changing world of world, adapting to environmental challenges.

Through the diversity of Geography pupils will:

Develop transferable skills for the workplace and have a greater understanding of the complexities of the world around them. Specific geographical skills geographers will develop whilst at Woodlands include:

Communication, organisation, critical thinking, research and critical analysis, data presentation, ability to work under pressure, debate topical issues, self-management, interpersonal skills, confidence, willingness to learn and teamwork.

What is the key knowledge pupils will gain in Geography at Woodlands?

The Oxford English Dictionary defines Geography as 'the study of the physical features of the Earth and its atmosphere, and of human activity as it affects and is affected by these, including the distribution of populations and resources and political and economic activities.' Geography at Woodlands aims to deliver an enriched curriculum that encompasses this definition.

KS3:

Across the 2 year KS3 pupils will explore a range of Geographical concepts across a variety of contexts.

In year 7 pupils will study navigation skills through a global enquiry, weather and climate, climate hazards through coastal flooding, sustainability and population.

In year 8 pupils continue to build on the skills taught previously to learn about global biomes, development with a county focus on Brazil, physical hazards by exploring plate tectonic and human hazards through climate change, as well as studying the UK's landscape. Alongside this pupils will develop cross curricular links by studying the history of Basildon which will be a project linked with the History department.

KS4:

GCSE Geography at Woodlands is taught following the Edexcel Geography B syllabus. Edexcel B allows pupils to explore natural hazards and provides the opportunity to investigate wider global issues such as energy consumption and deforestation. As well as this 37.5% of the exam focuses on the UK and national geography. Additionally paper 3 (worth 25% of the overall grade) enables pupils to develop analytical and decision making skills as pupils are required to make a geographical decision surrounding a global concern.

There are three components which are assessed at the end of Year 11:

- Global Geographical Issues – Hazardous Earth, Development Dynamics, Challenges of an Urbanising World
- UK Geographical Issues – The UK's Evolving Physical Landscape, The UK's Evolving Human Landscape, Geographical Investigations
- People and Environmental Issues – Making Geographical Decisions – People and the Biosphere, Forests Under Threat, Consuming Energy Resources

How will Geography at Woodlands prepare pupils for the future?

Geographers have many skills which are valued by employers. Geography teaches important life skills such as independent learning and functional skills alongside ways of developing critical thinking about the world. Geography is a diverse subject which encompasses many other academic elements of citizenship, social and natural sciences. There is an incredible range of employment opportunities that pupils who study Geography GCSE (and go onto study Geography within Further Education) can go on to achieve. The Royal Geographical Society (RGS) has published examples of career paths for Geographers. The wide ranging skills taught within Woodlands' Geography Curriculum enables pupils to have a variety of choice with their Post-16 career options.

Palmers, Sevic, Havering College, Appleton and Westcliff High School (sixth forms) all offer Geography A levels for pupil's to continue their learning journey with the subject.

However for those who chose not to go onto a career or higher education in Geography will benefit from the cultural capital gained throughout their time at Woodlands. The curriculum intends to develop global citizens who understand their role in the world and can contribute positively to its future.