



Followers of Christ	Resilient Thinkers	Responsible Community	Respectful Individuals	Excellent Achievers	Family
					
Faith	Resilience	Community	Respect	Excellence	Family

Geography Intent

“But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind.” Job 12:7-10 NIV

Our vision as a department is to create a positive learning environment that inspires pupils and engenders a love for the subject and the world around them by putting Christ at the centre of all that we do.

Geography is essentially about understanding the world we live in. At All Saints Catholic College pupils are encouraged to develop a greater understanding and knowledge not only of the world but also their place in it.

The Geography Department seeks to inspire in students a curiosity about the world and its people and gain a deep understanding of the Earth’s key physical and human processes. We will develop students’ skills to enable them to understand and ask questions about the world around them, how they are interdependent, and understand the causes of changes and impacts of change.

We also aim to build the Cultural Capital of our students by helping them to understand the contemporary world around them. Students learn about how political decisions can cause change in the world around them. They learn about the powerful global economic forces that are bringing about changes to the way that will affect their futures. Socially the students learn about how countries are at different stages of development and how the lives of people living there are very different. Geography also helps to explain the many environmental issues that are changing the world in which these students live and how to make sense of these effects. Finally, Geography has strong cross curricular links to many other subjects that pupils will study in school and we aim to build those links as pupils progress.

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We teach the National Curriculum, supported by a clear skills and knowledge progression and the learning experience of students is at the forefront of all our planning. Therefore, materials are regularly reviewed, with planning of lessons building upon previous knowledge and skills gained by students. Learning is embedded and sequential to contribute to long term memory and as a department we define the powerful knowledge our students need and help them recall it by using specific Science of Learning techniques such as checkpoint quizzing, hinge questions and the I, We, You method.

Our Geography curriculum has knowledge at its centre. Students are taught about locational knowledge and place knowledge through topics on Africa and newly emerging economies, as well as human and physical geography processes such as weather and climate and urban change, fully covering the Geography National curriculum in appropriate depth. Skills are fully met and developed during the KS3 curriculum and embedded in later years. For example there are focuses on map skills and fieldwork techniques. Students come back to these skills through their course extending their skill and knowledge base. Literacy is another important part of our curriculum and each year group has key vocabulary that is central to the students learning and is fully integrated into lesson planning.

Assessment

We assess the pupils at KS3 every half term on one of the key themes:

Space & Society

Environmental Interaction

Geographical Skills

A Sustainable Society

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The future of Humanity

The Changing Planet Earth

Assessments are extended pieces of writing that encompasses the work they have been covering in each topic. This extended piece of writing is assessed using 'I can statements' connected to each theme. Assessment also includes checkpoint quizzes twice a half term which not only cover current topics but also previous ones to aid recall.

At KS4 pupils are assessed using short exam type papers each topic and longer exam type papers less regularly covering current and previous topics. They are also assessed every two/three weeks through a single piece of extended writing in the form of a longer exam question. The most up to date AQA mark schemes are used for all of these. Pupils also complete checkpoint quizzes in the same intervals.

By the time pupils leave All Saints Catholic College we expect them all to have an excellent knowledge of where places are and what they are like as well as a detailed understanding of the ways in which places are interdependent and interconnected and how much human and physical environments are interrelated. We aim for every pupil to have the ability to express well-balanced opinions, rooted in very good knowledge and understanding about current and contemporary issues in society and the environment. And to be able to have the ability to reach clear conclusions and develop a reasoned argument to explain their ideas. We also want pupils to have a passion for and commitment to the subject, and a real sense of curiosity to find out about the world, the people in it and their place in it all.

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