

Geography

'Geography is all about the living, breathing essence of the world we live in. It explains the past, illuminates the present and prepares us for the future. What could be more important than that?'

Geography is the study of the earth's landscapes, peoples, places and environments. It is, quite simply, about the world in which we live. Our aims here at St Bede's are to develop a sense of place and to develop an awareness of a selection of contrasting physical and human environments.

Geography gives an insight into the relationships between people and the environment and how each affects the other and to comprehend the concept of sustainable development. Geography enables students to foster a sympathetic understanding of some of the major issues of social concern such as poverty and population problems.

The School has a popular, highly regarded, active and successful Geography Department. Accommodated in a well-equipped suite of specialist rooms, with weather satellite station, interactive whiteboard, audio-visual and computer facilities.

The Department prides itself on making the Geography we teach both interesting and relevant to pupils of the 21st century. We aim to develop skills of critical enquiry as well as a firm understanding of concepts through a variety of key questions. The opportunity for fieldwork and practical experience is seen as an important part of the learning experience and the Department is committed to providing a varied programme that involves work at home and abroad.

We encourage all pupils to appreciate how actions and decisions made at a local level can have global implications; as a consequence there are frequent lively discussions on themes as varied as the management and conservation of extreme environments to the creation of sustainable communities in modern cities.

'Geography is life-it is impossible to conceive of rounded human beings who have not grasped the fundamentals of Geography'

Key Stage 3

Throughout Years 7-9 every student will gain a knowledge of world place and understand Britain's place in the real world. Students will be given opportunities and encouragement to ask questions, think critically and produce reasoned arguments in order to create solutions. Learning about the world they live in will hopefully, develop an awe or wonder of the physical world. By relating all topics to the real world and current events, it will generate a passion for discovering other places and learning about the lives of people there.

Year 7 – Pupils receive a transition from primary school investigating what geography is before looking at other topics including the UK, Brazil and Waste and Ecosystems.



Year 8 – Pupils enhance learning from year 7 and investigate rivers, world issues, tectonics (volcanoes and earthquakes) and weather.

Year 9 – Pupils prepare for geography at GCSE with topics including population and coasts.

Key Stage 4 – GCSE

GCSE Geography has consistently been one of the most popular subjects chosen by students for GCSE. This is principally due to the enthusiasm and expertise of the department's Geographers. Their approach to the subject is based upon the philosophy that Geography can and should be understood and enjoyed by all, and that students and teachers alike are engaged in an endeavour to think independently, research topical events and problem solve.

At GCSE levels, pupils follow AQA specification A, and they are exposed to a balanced diet of human and physical modules so students will be better informed of the world around them. In addition, geographical skills and fieldwork add depth to their understanding.

Fieldwork opportunities

Fieldwork is an opportunity for pupils to go out into the real world and experience real life geography. Here at St Bede's we believe that fieldwork is a vital learning experience and not only benefits geography but also helps the pupils we teach become more independent and rounded individuals.

There is an extensive fieldwork program encompassing all year groups, which is designed to stimulate an awareness and curiosity about a variety of environments. Trips planned and done by the department include The Ardeche, Arran, Italy (Mount Vesuvius and Pompeii), Grasmere, Global renewables recycle plant, Whitescar Caves and Mallam Cove.