

Geography

Overview

The study of geography encourages an understanding of the physical world and how people influence and are influenced by their environment. During geography lessons and activities at King Charles I School, students learn about features of places and landscapes and develop a range of skills including graphical, cartographical, statistical and literacy competencies. This combination of knowledge, understanding and skills supports a wide range of future studies and careers.

KS3 curriculum

At KS3 the aim of the geography curriculum is to build a secure knowledge of where places are and the ability to investigate their key features. We also practice geographical skills such as map work and analysing evidence. King Charles I School geography department enters pupils into the Year 8 Geographical Association quiz each year to compete against schools from the West Midlands and North Worcestershire.

Year 7 geography at King Charles I School

Topics to be studied in geography this year include:

- Settlement
- Mapping
- Rainforests
- Resources
- Energy
- Eco- island

Year 8 geography at King Charles I School

Topics to be studied in Geography this year include:

- Mapping skills
- Development
- Weather
- The EU
- Glaciation
- Coasts

Year 9 geography at King Charles I School

Topics to be studied in geography this year include:

- Disaster geography
- China
- Tourism
- Mapping skills
- Globalisation
- Climate change

KS4 curriculum

The AQA GCSE geography course studied at King Charles I School is taught through six topics plus an investigation based on fieldwork. Students study a range of topics including water on the land, urban environments, rocks, resources and scenery, the development gap, tectonic activity and tourism. Students learn about features of places and landscapes and develop a range of skills including graphical, cartographical, statistical and literacy competencies. The geography department organises yearly trips abroad, such as to Iceland, which KS4 students can take part in. All students go on a field trip to Carding Mill Valley Stream.

KS5 curriculum

The AQA A Level geography specification provides opportunities for students to study a range of topics at scales from local to regional, national and international. The curriculum is structured into modules. Students study population, food, rivers, coasts, ecosystems, tectonic activity and world cities. The skills, knowledge and understanding supported by studying geography is welcomed by many different subjects at university level and prepares students for many aspects of their working life. Fieldwork locally and a residential field course to North Wales offers opportunities to support students' understanding of topics covered, to develop their data collection and analysis skills and to enhance their teamwork and leadership skills. Students also have the opportunity to attend events organised by the local branch of the Geographical Association which includes attending lectures given by university professors.

External assessment and controlled assessment

KS4

Two examination papers are taken worth 75% of the final grade with a controlled assessment investigation based on fieldwork for the remaining 25% of the final grade.

KS5

Two examinations are taken at AS level (Y12), one is based on skills and fieldwork experience. Two examinations are taken at A2 level (y13) again with one based on skills and fieldwork. The A2 examinations demand essay writing skills and synoptic answers.

SMSC in geography

The study of geography includes many topics and activities which support the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students. The geography curriculum offers opportunities to consider a range of topics such as development and globalisation, managing coastal environments, disasters, urban change and the geography of food. Within each topic students are encouraged to reflect on how people affect places and how places affect people. Students are encouraged to consider what could or should be done and who benefits and suffers from changes whilst undertaking a variety of individual, pair and group work tasks. Beyond the classroom, students benefit from fieldwork activities and through attending events, quizzes and lectures organised by the local Geographical Association.

Spiritual development in geography

Students have many opportunities to reflect on their beliefs and life perspectives whilst learning about lives in other parts of the world. They are encouraged to consider the feelings and values of others whilst debating topics such as fair trade and to show respect for others whilst taking part in role plays about issues such as quarrying. Students are given opportunities to use their imagination and creativity through extended tasks and regularly reflect on their experiences both verbally and in writing. The accuracy and reliability of methods and the accuracy of data is considered and thinking skills are developed through tasks such as giving Aid and types of Aid. The study of geography supports students in their quest to find out more about themselves, others and the world around them.

Moral development in geography

Whilst studying geography, students are encouraged to share and justify their views about moral and ethical issues such as when studying squatter settlements and poverty in less developed countries. During lessons students are given opportunities to listen and appreciate the ideas of others and to consider the implications of decision making. Decision making exercises about issues such as limestone quarrying support moral development through geography as students consider right and wrong, respect for laws and the consequences of decisions and behaviour.

Social development in geography

In geography, students work with others from different backgrounds and this is encouraged through the use of a seating plan and a variety of team work and group tasks. Fieldwork opportunities such as data collection at Carding Mill Valley require students to cooperate and show mutual respect whilst working in groups carrying out a range of tasks. Leadership qualities, speaking and listening skills, organisational ability and conflict resolution are developed whilst in the field but also whilst undertaking activities such as research and presentation group tasks. Self and peer assessment takes place regularly in geography and encourages students to reflect on their progress.

Cultural development in geography

Many topics in geography allow students to develop their understanding of cultures and heritage at local, regional, national and international scales. For example, the study of population and migration encourages students to consider why people migrate and the implications of such movement. Optional foreign fieldwork in geography has taken students to China, Iceland, Italy and France in recent years in addition to fieldwork in Shropshire, North Wales and the West Midlands. Through learning about case studies of countries such as China, Italy and Nigeria students are encouraged to consider a variety of cultural backgrounds and how understanding culture is important when considering topics such as disaster management.