



Tollbar MAT
Family of Academies



Tollbar Academy

Geography Curriculum

Intent

The intent of the curriculum is to give students a great understanding of the world in both human and physical elements, including areas in which they live, and to develop their cultural capital through the exploration of a range of local and international case studies across all key stages. Geography allows all learners to challenge preconceived ideas about different peoples, places and the world we live in. In KS3 they study the Geography of the UK, moving on to World Issues so students can broaden their horizons and gain greater knowledge of how different countries and societies operate.

The curriculum is ambitious and at GCSE many links are drawn between topic areas such as the teaching of Changing Economic World, challenging perceptions of rich/poor nations and encouraging students to make informed decisions based on a variety of qualitative and quantitative data. This concept is revisited and embedded through links which can be made to climate emergency, carbon footprints, food miles and connections with world issues like resource management and over reliance on food aid.

The Geography curriculum is designed to link with other curriculum areas to develop a range of skills students will be able to use in the wider-world. This includes looking at grid references, interpretation and analysis of maps, photos and satellite images. Students will analyse charts and data, assisting with numeracy. There are also connections with Science through ecosystems, rock and nutrient cycling, changing economies in Business, and Technology through engineering. As well as producing extended writing answers which will develop skills such as reasoned argument and substantiating judgements, which fits in with other Humanities and literacy based subjects.

The Curriculum also promotes independent learning and is designed to take students away from just focusing on learning content for an exam – this is done through fieldwork elements in urban areas such as York in KS5 and Coastal areas and Hull in KS4 – The intent is to give students a greater appreciation of the area in which they live and how their actions can both destroy and preserve the local environment, which is becoming

increasingly significant with the global climate crisis and the need to be responsible citizens.

The Curriculum also has a duty to prepare students for challenges facing them and the world at the moment. To do this the curriculum evolves to address the current concerns, these include world debt/loans and uneven development which promote discussions on how to manage debt and issues around debt. Similarly, local concerns with rapid erosion along the Holderness Coast and rising sea levels along the Humber estuary and the cost of protecting these areas. Crucially, students are taught about critical resources (food, water, energy) and how the use of these is or is not sustainable in the UK and around the world. All of which provide cultural capital by giving students an understanding of humanity's impact on the world, as well as ethical considerations on the world around them.

Implementation

The Geography curriculum is planned and sequenced to ensure that study material is accessible to all learners at the Academy. Teachers plan individual lessons to suit the particular requirements of their classes whilst following a structured and considered scheme of work devised in collaboration with all Geography teaching staff. This allows for a progression in the understanding and application of Geographical skills such as interpretation, analysis, evaluation and use of fieldwork. These core skills will use qualitative and quantitative data, and often form part of a decision-making exercise or extended writing piece. The sequencing of the lessons enables this to be practised and refined across all key stages whilst preparing our learners for the transition to the next phase of their educational or into the workplace. Geography lessons will provide opportunities for discussion and reflection to help students challenge a range of complex questions facing us today and will allow them to increase their confidence in the study of Geography. Lessons will also be routinely and consistently updated so that students will use relevant and contemporary case studies which will allow them to gain a developed understanding of modern Britain and the wider world.

To ensure this, all Geography staff are given a clear curriculum map and support to meet the needs of all students in the classroom. The Geography curriculum enables staff to demonstrate their own passion for Geography and impart outstanding subject knowledge to students.

Key Stage 3

The Geography KS3 Curriculum is designed so that students can make quick and sustained progress in their study of Geography. The curriculum is planned to build on skills from KS2 and develop and embed these in learners. The intention is that students

will be able to quickly gain confidence with these skills and apply them to a range of situations.

Students will be given the opportunity to carry out their own geographical fieldwork and independent study right from the first year at the Academy. The KS3 Curriculum is intended to be challenging but give students the skills they need to progress with confidence to study KS4 Geography or that they can apply to their other studies. The KS3 Curriculum allows students to engage with the geography of both the UK and the wider world across the two years they study with us. This will give them a deep and meaningful understanding of the world in which they live and how humanity can impact upon it. Topics learned at KS3 are wide ranging, embedding core skills such as map work, photo analysis and decision making.

Key Stage 4

At KS4 the Geography curriculum will develop and improve upon the skills learned at KS3. The students will study a range of both human and physical Geography topics that will give them a good knowledge of the issues facing our society and their role in the world. The curriculum is designed to give students a positive engagement with the local community through fieldwork to local areas and classroom-based learning of modern and relevant case studies. KS4 Geography encourages students to think critically about the world, their local area and humanity's role in it. Through links with other subjects we aim for skills to be embedded and applied consistently so that learners can tackle a range of geographical problems with confidence.

Students will be given regular formative and summative assessment and the opportunity to study exemplar responses. Like KS3, we will encourage students to reflect and review their learning to promote independent study and prepare them for the next transition into further study or employment.

Key Stage 5

At KS5 our students will continue with the skills and methodology learned at KS4 and will progress on their journey with us as independent learners. Students will again engage with both human and physical elements of Geography, which will be taught side-by-side for the two-year period. Students will undertake a piece of independent fieldwork whilst being supported by an experienced member of staff at the Academy. Students will be encouraged to apply their own opinions and judgements to a range of geographical issues and we aim to develop skills that will be transferable to students' further education or entry to the workplace.

Students will look at topics such as Hazards, Coasts, Contemporary Urban Environments and Global Governance. They will also be given the opportunity to embark on a residential visit to further build their independence as students of Geography.

Impact

At Tollbar Academy, the impact of the Geography Curriculum will be such that:

- Students will leave the Academy with a deep and sustained understanding of contemporary Britain and the wider world. They will be able to communicate ideas with confidence and will be critical thinkers, able to reflect and consider multiple viewpoints. This will be reflected in national examination results and the progression shown by the individual learners.
- Geography students will feel prepared for the next transition into education or employment and will have confidence in the subject, having embedded, developed and applied skills learned from KS3 to KS5.