

ST RICHARD'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE



Geography Department Information Booklet



Welcome to the Geography Department at St Richard's Catholic College.

We work in a department where we hope to inspire the next generation of geographers. We hope that the lessons that we teach stimulate an interest in and a sense of wonder about the world and....

- help young people make sense of a complex and dynamically changing world
- explain where places are, how places and landscapes are formed, how people and their environment interact, and how a diverse range of economies, societies and environments are interconnected
- build on pupils' own experiences to investigate all scales, from the personal to the global.
- encourage questioning, investigation and critical thinking about issues affecting the world and people's lives, now and in the future.
- provide hands on experiences and out of classroom opportunities regularly to bring the subject to life.
- inspire pupils to become global citizens by exploring their own place in the world, their values and their responsibilities to other people, to the environment and to the sustainability of the planet.

We do this through:

- Lessons which challenge and provoke thought. Our teaching and learning delivers high quality education which promotes a love of learning about the world. We deliver this through teaching units with topical questions which challenge pupil thinking. Pupils will steadily work out how the world works and how it can and will change in the future. By learning about places that are outside of their own experience, they will develop their understanding of the world's diversity of environments, people, cultures and economies. They will develop a global 'open mindedness' so that they can challenge stereotypes and understand the fluidity of key ideas and concepts. Pupils will be able to communicate geographical information in a variety of ways, including through maps, numerical and quantitative skills and writing at length as well as through the use of Geographical Information Systems.
- Our annual residential trip to the Isle of Wight with Year 9/10 pupils which is now in its fourth successful year. Pupils learn about geology, coastal management, urban change as well as having the chance to team build using the PGL facilities. It's a great way to start their GCSE course.





"I really enjoyed this trip. It was very educational. I learnt loads for my GCSE. It's been such an amazing time and I made loads of new friends."

"After the long days, we had free time and football which was great. We finished the great day with hot chocolate and cookies. I could happily have stayed for a week."

"I really enjoyed this trip to the Isle of Wight. We got to climb hills and see some amazing sights. I even found a 300 million year old trilobite fossil!"

- Visiting our local shores to examine the landforms and features of the coastline and assess whether they are the result of coastal processes as well as review its management. Talking to visitors, residents and the Environment Agency gives our pupils at both KS3 and KS4 a real appreciation of what is happening on their doorstep.



- We run Geography Awareness Weeks which promote a greater appreciation amongst young people of how we encounter Geography in our everyday lives. Activities vary from those with form tutors to quizzes organised at lunchtime. It is great to see all year groups as well as staff participating and having fun with Geography.

- We support an indigenous tribe in Kenya and help pupils learn first-hand about sustainable development and the importance of Fairtrade, as well as their role in challenging uneven economic development.
- We support any opportunity to develop pupils' geographical awareness, entering competitions, running trips and gaining awards for our efforts.



It's a busy department with lots of opportunities to bring Geography to life and to see its relevance in our everyday lives.

A Brief Introduction to the Department

The current Geography Department at St Richard's consists of specialists who teach Geography at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 and BTEC Travel and Tourism.

Department Staff

- Mrs P Hoyle Assistant Principal, Subject Leader for Geography
- Mrs J Massey Geography teacher
- Mrs C Akraasi Geography teacher
- Mrs N Campbell, Teaching Assistant for History and Geography

The Curriculum

Key Stage 3

Pupils are taught in mixed ability groups in Years 7-9. In Year 7 there is also a nurture group for pupils with additional needs to help ease their transition into secondary school life. The curriculum follows the National Curriculum for Geography and pupils are taught for half the year before moving to their History specialist teacher for the rest of the academic year. The Geography curriculum is taught in the following way:

Year 7: 3 x 50 minutes each week } for half the
 Year 8: 3 x 50 minutes each week } academic year

Year 9: 2 x 50 minutes each week

In term 4 of Year 9, pupils begin their chosen Humanities GCSE subject (Geography or History).

Course Outline

YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9
Our World and Local Area	Understanding our Coastline	Our Unstable Earth
Kenya	Rich World Poor World	The Geography of Disease
Rivers	Understanding Asia	Exploring the Middle East Ice

Additional Stand-Alone Lessons

The department also ensures current issues and events are marked through additional stand-alone lessons. These include:

Fairtrade Fortnight

Geography Awareness Week

Key Stage 4

In Years 10 and 11, pupils continue to be taught in mixed ability classes and pupils with additional needs are supported by our TA and the class teacher. All pupils choose to study either Geography or History at GCSE level.

Years 10 and 11: 3 x 50 minutes each week

Geography: AQA Specification A

Course content

Unit 1: Living with the Physical Environment

The challenge of natural hazards

Physical landscapes in the UK

The living world

Geographical skills

Externally examined in June Year 11

Worth 35% of the GCSE - Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes

Unit 2: Challenges in the Human Environment

Urban issues and challenges

The changing economic world

The challenge of resource management

Geographical skills

Externally examined in June Year 11

Worth 35% of the GCSE - Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes

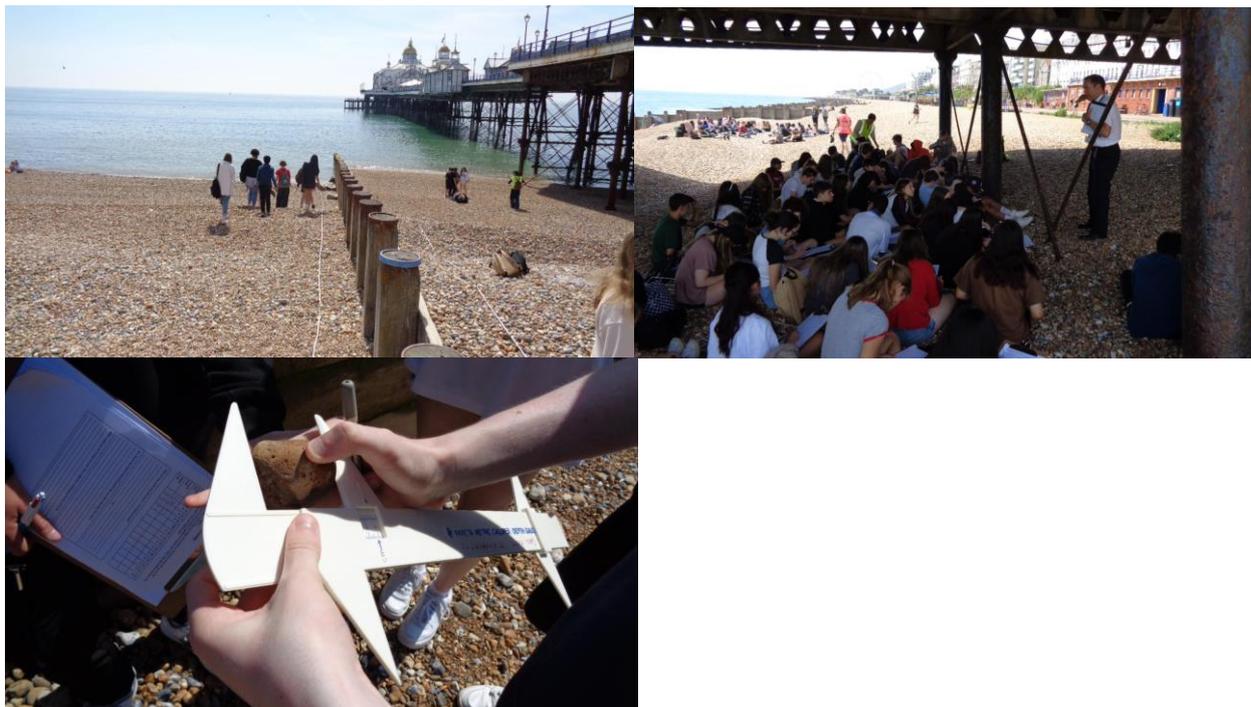
Unit 3: Geographical applications

Understanding issues from pre-released materials

Fieldwork

Geographical skills

30% of the total marks - Duration: 1 hour 15 minutes



Assessment Framework for GCSE

Pupils are assessed regularly within each topic area using a mixture of class and homework exercises. Formal assessments are set for each unit and pupils are expected to achieve within one grade of their target. Intervention is available twice a week and is put into place for those who require it to ensure that progress is made in all areas. This is run before and after school on a weekly basis and parents are kept fully informed.

BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 in Travel and Tourism

BTEC Travel and Tourism is an option subject against MFL. Pupils have 4 x 50 minute lessons per week. All lessons include laptop access.

Y10 are studying the 2022 syllabus, and Y11 are the final cohort to study the legacy syllabus.

Course content:

Year 10	Year 11
Component 1 – travel and tourism organisations and destinations Internally assessed through 1 piece of coursework (PSA) run in exam conditions in class. PSA release date Oct 2023 30% of final grade	Component 1 – travel and tourism organisations and destinations Internally assessed through 2 pieces of coursework written in exam conditions. 30% of final grade

<p>Component 2 – meeting customer needs in travel and tourism Internally assessed through 1 piece of coursework (PSA) run in exam conditions in class. PSA release date Oct/Jan 2023 30% of final grade</p>	<p>Component 2 – exam unit – Global Travel and Tourism Factors affecting travel and tourism Impacts of travel and tourism and sustainability Destination Management 2 hour exam, externally assessed, sat in February Y11 40% of final grade</p>
<p>Component 3 – exam unit – Global Travel and Tourism Factors affecting travel and tourism Impacts of travel and tourism and sustainability Destination Management 2 hour exam, externally assessed, sat in June Y11 40% of final grade</p>	<p>Component 3 – meeting customer needs in travel and tourism Internally assessed through 2 pieces of coursework written in exam conditions. 30% of final grade</p>

Y7 Environmental Rangers

This is an option for Y7 run against DT subjects. All pupils in Y7 will take this 8 week course within Year 7.

It has been written internally to help pupils appreciate and understand their local environment and understand why and how it can be respected, protected and conserved. Pupils have 1 double (2 x 50 minute) per week for one rotation

Lesson content –

1. Outdoor code
2. Sea level rise
3. Our history
4. What's out there?
5. Mindfulness
6. Pollution problem
7. Reflection
8. Beach Olympics

Target Grades

At Key Stage 3, pupils are set target grades in line with school policy which teachers use to monitor progress. These are not shared with pupils. Pupils not making expected progress will be offered intervention to meet their particular need.

At GCSE, pupils are set target grades that reflect the GCSE criteria. Work is graded 1 - 9, relating to GCSE grades and past paper questions are marked according to exam board mark schemes.

Organisation of Pupils' Classwork and Homework

All pupils are provided with a folder which has a protective plastic cover and book cover. All work is completed in booklets which are added to the folder as the year progresses.

All classwork is expected to be completed in the booklets and should be brought to every lesson. Homework is set on a weekly basis and aims to build on classroom learning through a variety of additional tasks. Both class and homework tasks can be found on a Google Classroom for each class with reminders about set work on Edulink. This enables pupils to revise from these materials or to support those who have missed lessons or are falling behind. All lessons are planned by the department and shared across the team. These are constantly reviewed and improved, in line with National Curriculum and exam board changes. We aim to ensure that we cater for all learning styles and abilities through our differentiated and creative lesson planning.

Key Stage 3 and 4 Marking Policy

Every pupil book is marked at least twice a term, in line with school policy. At Key Stage 3, booklets are marked using the KS3 assessment criteria and may focus on a particular piece of writing and/or test. This provides pupils with an understanding of their progress and through purposeful feedback, pupils can improve work to make progress throughout the year. At GCSE, books are marked according to GCSE examination criteria. This provides all pupils with an understanding of their progress in relation to their GCSE target grades which are set each year.

Alongside this, class and homework is marked using a combination of positive and developmental comments, stickers, achievement points and postcards home.

WWW:

What Went Well – this is a positive comment about how well the work was completed.

EBI:

Even Better If – this is a developmental comment aimed at improving an area of the pupil's progress.

Peer/Self-Assessment

Pupils are expected to complete both peer and self-assessments termly with the aim of increasing pupils' understanding of how to make progress.

GCSE Mock Examinations and end of unit assessments

Summative assessments are marked in accordance with the mark scheme. There is no requirement for feedback to be written by staff; however, it is advised that identified areas in marking are used to set developmental targets in the pupils' learning. Pupils need to complete a self-evaluation of their assessment and set their own targets to ensure that they progress towards their target grade. The turnaround time for the marking of assessments is 2 working weeks.

Rewards and Consequences

Rewards and consequences within the department follow those used across the school. We also make use of motivational stickers, postcards home and certificates in all year groups.

Clubs and Ecoschool

We have a Geography reading challenge where pupils in Years 7 & 8 collect a bookmark from their Geography teacher or the library. There are some suggested books there and plenty more to choose from on the library shelves. Pupils are encouraged to read as many as they can and present their completed bookmark for a fabulous geographical prize!

Our Geography Club has been very active and worked hard to achieve an Eco Award with Distinction from EcoSchools. We have also been a leading pioneer with Energy Sparks winning Regional Champions last year. Garden Club runs once a week after school maintaining our school peace garden and vegetable boxes by Science. We have built bird boxes, planted wildflower meadows and contributed to the Y11 charity event by supplying wildflower cards.

Recycling

As a department, we take the lead for various recycling activities. We continue to reduce our environmental footprint at St. Richard's as we seek to improve our society and environment for future generations. We collect milk bottle tops - only those with a 2 or 4 in the triangle for a local hospital charity; recycle glasses that are sent to countries in Africa and Asia. Old football boots are reused in Uganda; pens are recycled in every classroom with a pen recycling pot. Batteries and empty crisp packets are being collected in the canteen and are being processed by Warming Up the Homeless in Bexhill and they are being woven into bivi bags and blankets. Even stamps can now be recycled in school!

Department Development

Formal department meetings happen twice termly according to the school calendar and include the moderation of pupil work, and provide an opportunity to share concerns and develop teaching and learning practice and resources.

Resources

All courses are backed by a variety of video, GIS, textbook and fieldwork resources. We regularly use laptops for independent learning. We regularly review resources and improve quality as required. The department uses a central set of lesson materials and resources which support consistency in teaching and learning. At GCSE, pupils are given the opportunity to purchase key revision guides and textbooks and exam paper booklets are widely available at all times.

Field Trips

The Geography department firmly believes that the best form of education is through personal experience. Therefore, we offer a variety of day and residential fieldwork in Key Stage 3 and 4 as well as opportunities to leave the classroom both physically and virtually.

Local Fieldwork

In order to aid pupils' understanding of Geography, wherever possible we undertake local fieldwork.

Both Key Stages take part in fieldwork that will lead into class based activities. In Key Stage 3, pupils visit Galley Hill beach, Bexhill CBD, as well as using the school environment as part of our in-class investigations and providing the opportunity to develop their independent working skills.

In Key Stage 4, pupils visit Eastbourne and Bexhill as we examine the techniques that can be used in fieldwork data collection for the exam. This leads into a detailed case study that shows the impact of management on a local beach as well as the urban environment.

Isle of Wight

This long weekend residential provides pupils with the opportunity to experience a variety of coastal features and management as well as urban case studies that are featured in the GCSE syllabus. Pupils get to witness first-hand the coastal systems' management. They visit The Needles, Freshwater Bay, Ryde and Ventnor and look at contrasting urban areas as well as explore climate change.

GCSE Results

Results for the Geography Department can be seen below.

2014/2015	Geography 65% A*-C		
2015/2016	Geography 77% A*-C		
2016/2017	Geography 88% A*-C		
2017/2018	Geography 82.5% 4-9	67% 5-9	
2018/2019	Geography 82.4% 4-9	66.6% 5-9	34.3% 7-9
2019/2020	Geography 95% 4-9	77.5% 5-9	39% 7-9
2020/2021	Geography 93.7% 4-9	83.3% 5-9	43.7% 7-9
2021-2022	Geography 96.1% 4-9	82.9% 5-9	56.6% 7-9

Results are on an upward trend with our target focused on 100% 4-9 grades, 90% 5-9 grades.

Geography Department Tweets

Keep up to date with all the latest Geography news with [@StRichardsGeog](#) on Twitter!

