

Geography Intent Statement

Summary

Christ's College Geography curriculum develops pupils' understanding of the interdependence between people and the environment, exploring physical and human processes at local and global scales while promoting sustainability, stewardship and awareness of globalisation.

Ethos

Our Geography curriculum is designed to spark curiosity about the world—both near and far—and to inspire a sense of awe and wonder while fostering a genuine appreciation of the environment we share. We aim to nurture conscientious students who understand the impact humans have on natural processes and who recognise that, regardless of race, religion, gender, or beliefs, we all live on the same Earth. By exploring how people live in different places, pupils develop a deeper understanding of global interconnections and the diverse ways communities interact with their environments.

At Christ's College, Geography is modern, dynamic, and responsive to the pressing global issues of today. Our curriculum balances Human and Physical Geography, equipping pupils with the knowledge, skills, and critical thinking needed to evaluate strategies for managing and protecting our planet sustainably. Through this approach, we highlight the vital role Geography plays in understanding our increasingly interconnected world and preparing our students to engage with it thoughtfully and responsibly.

Curriculum

At Christ's College, we recognise the vital role Geography plays in understanding the world around us and its relevance to everyday life. Geography is taught as a core subject throughout EYFS, KS1, KS2, KS3 and KS4, with objectives that are at least as ambitious as those outlined in the National Curriculum. Our curriculum balances theoretical learning with meaningful fieldwork, enabling students to explore both **physical processes** and **human processes**, and to understand their **interdependence** at a range of **place and scale**. Through the study of **ecosystems, sustainability** and environmental **stewardship**, pupils develop a strong sense of responsibility for the world they live in, while also gaining an appreciation of cultural **heritage** and the impacts of **globalisation**. We aim to equip students with the confidence and skills needed to investigate, evaluate and engage with their local environment and the wider world. Curiosity is fostered through hands-on fieldwork, culminating in GCSE projects with trips to Newbiggin and Ouseburn. Students also explore global issues beyond their immediate experience, such as studying countries like Australia, China and India. Across all phases, carefully planned educational visits—including local trips, museum

excursions, and virtual experiences—further enrich learning. Topics are revisited throughout the curriculum to embed knowledge and ensure progression, enabling students to make meaningful connections across different geographical themes.

Community

Where possible, the Geography curriculum is rooted in the local context of Sunderland, enabling pupils to explore the geography of their immediate environment, including the school grounds, Pennywell, and coastal areas such as Marsden and the Northumberland Coast. By building from local to wider contexts, we ensure pupils develop the skills, knowledge, confidence and curiosity needed to continue their geographical learning beyond Christ's College. Children are encouraged to engage with the world both inside and outside the classroom through the use of atlases, virtual fieldwork and carefully planned educational visits, fostering a deeper understanding of place and a lifelong interest in geography.

Character

Character development is a central element of our school ethos. We strive to ensure that all students feel valued, challenged, and inspired in their learning, while also nurturing strong moral character through our core virtues of Love, Wisdom, Fairness, Self-Control, Courage, Humility, and Integrity. In addition, we seek to cultivate essential personal qualities such as curiosity, independence, resilience, passion, perseverance, and social intelligence, enabling students to flourish both academically and personally.