



KING EDWARD VI BALAAM WOOD ACADEMY

Educational excellence for our City

Core Values

Our Curriculum is underpinned by our core values of being:

Bold... committed to academic excellence

Ambitious... for all pupils

Collaborative... learning involves working together

Kind... respecting each other and allowing others to achieve their full potential

Geography Curriculum Statement and vision

Curriculum Intent

We believe in offering a broad and balanced Geography Curriculum at King Edward VI Balaam Wood Academy, to give our pupils the knowledge, skills and confidence to become successful in the 21st Century World, whatever their chosen path.

We will:

- Provide a Geography Curriculum that aims to inspire pupils *and develop curiosity about the world the live in*
- Deliver the National Curriculum at KS3, building upon previous learning and pupils' current knowledge and understanding
- Make lessons engaging to encourage pupils to study Geography at KS4
- Our curriculum will follow the National curriculum as a baseline and will take a Philosophical approach to build on the pupil's previous experience of the subject and develop further subject knowledge & skills in relevant and ever-changing topics within Geography
- In the context of the school our Geography curriculum will allow them to be inquisitive, think critically, challenge views and give our pupils their own voice allowing them to become bold and confident
- Extends pupils' experiences and awareness to the wider world
- Provide a safe & stimulating environment for them to ask questions and give them the skills to be kind, respectful and understand the views of others
- Encourage pupils to think in new ways about their own contexts of the world
- Deepen their understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes

- Develop key Geographical skills, literacy skills, mathematical skills, problems solving skills and interpersonal/social skills which have cross curricular links and will support them throughout their lives
- Provide opportunities for pupils to work independently and collaboratively
- Give them the experience of fieldwork and allow them to create memories which will stay with them for the rest of their lives.
- Use a range of teaching strategies and tailor our Curriculum to the needs of different groups of pupils including challenge and support
- Develop ambition for their future career opportunities that may link to our subject

Curriculum Implementation

Through Transition

Transition in Geography consists of an introduction to the world of Geography through the unit 'Passport to Geography'. This allows our teachers to check current understanding and skills and further develop them to support the pupils through their Geography learning journey at Balaam Wood. The 'Passport to Geography' unit will introduce the pupils to secondary Geography, build on prior knowledge and address knowledge gaps from KS2 and start to build their curiosity of physical and human interactions in Geography. Lessons within this unit will focus on what is Geography, why we study it, what is the world like, continents & countries of the world, maps, graphs and photographs in Geography.

Through Enrichment

Fieldwork is a large part of Geography and it is important for this to be incorporated within the pupils learning. Every year group will have the opportunity to carry out fieldwork either within or outside the school grounds. The fieldwork and enrichment activities that Geography offers are:

- Year 7 Investigation into the use of the school grounds
- Year 8 'My place' investigation into the quality of the local area
- Year 9 Waseley Hills study
- Year 10 Longbridge regeneration investigation
- Year 11 Carding Mill Valley River investigation
- KS3 Geography lunchtime club
- Visits to other local schools

Through Well-Being Wednesday

Our Well-Being Wednesday provision at KS3 develops pupils' love of Geography along with building valuable interpersonal and skills for their life outside of school. This involves exploring Geography topics outside of the National curriculum and planned lessons, focusing on topical news stories from the world of Geography and experiencing & developing fieldwork skills. Fieldwork is extremely important in Geography and often become memorable moments for the pupils.

Through Home-Learning

Home-learning is a key part of the offer at King Edward VI Balaam Wood Academy and is key to developing successful learning habits.

In Geography, we set the foundations in year 7 with key spelling and vocabulary which support not only Geography, but also link to progress in all subjects. Year 7 will also work through retrieval tasks in their humanities homework books. The tasks will include a variety of different style activities such as cloze questions, letters and diagrams to writing. During year 8 and 9 the pupils will also be expected to complete retrieval tasks from previous topics to build knowledge and imbed knowledge in their long-term memory. At KS4, we use a range of resources including Knowledge Organisers to support retrieval and revision tasks, GCSE Pod, Seneca learning, online videos and quizzes. Wider reading and independent reading and research are encouraged.

Through Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Our Geography journey from year 7 through to year 11 has been designed to support the pupils in broadening their horizons and with that in mind offers them a chance to investigate themes outside the school context. We will learn about the 'Big ideas' in Geography; place, space, environment, scale, environmental impact, cultural awareness and interconnections. We aim to develop a love of Geography, develop cultural capital, address misconceptions about the World we live in, encourage our pupils to ask questions and be critical.

The KS3 curriculum has been designed with a balance of human, physical, environmental Geography and fieldwork opportunities. They will study a range of topics including Volcanoes, coral reefs, Antarctica, population, development, climate change and pollution. These topics will include examples and case studies of different continents, countries, regions and Cities giving the pupils a broad view of the world outside Frankley.

The KS4 curriculum follows the AQA Specification which offers exciting and up to date units which further build on the pupils skills, knowledge and challenges them to further explore the world of Geography. At the end of the 2 years, they will sit three papers. The first two exams the pupils will sit will be human, physical and the third is geographical applications with a pre-release 12 weeks before the exam and a section focusing on fieldwork. They will learn through a variety of methods and will follow our Balaam Wood Quality Mark 7 model, with some subject-specific additions and adaptations, ensuring the following key features are embedded in lessons:

- 1) **DNA-** Based on retrieval and at KS4 linked to GCSE exam questions
- 2) **Recap/link to last lesson-** no more than 5 minutes
- 3) **New learning**
- 4) **AFL-** targeted pre-planned questioning at various points of the lesson
- 5) **Main task to include modelling of task**
- 6) **Meaningful and purposeful reading opportunities to support learning**
- 7) **Regular feedback and Re-teaching-** where misconceptions have arisen

Curriculum Impact

The impact of the Geography curriculum is measured through several means:

- Outcomes for pupils at GCSE
- Progress and attainment data for other year groups
- Pupil up-take at KS4
- Destinations data- the number of pupils going on to study Geography-related courses
- Pupil and teacher voice
- Engagement in enrichment activities
- Progress towards the Gatsby benchmarks
- Behaviour logs and attitudes to learning data
- Faculty reviews and Deep Dives
- Book trawls