



Dudley Academies Trust - The Link Academy

Statement of Curriculum Intent – Geography

Our aim is to develop learners' understanding of the world through teaching a wide variety of places, environments and processes as well as training our young people to apply their knowledge and understanding to geographical concepts. We do this by structuring each unit of work from year 7 to year 11 into three key areas. Learners will firstly investigate the human and physical causes of challenges, before developing an understanding of the problems and issues created. In the final section, learners will investigate how issues and challenges can be managed and are exposed to the current solutions available, to reduce the impact of issues and challenges.

How will this be achieved in our curriculum?

To achieve this, teachers will be responsive to the needs of the learners in front of them as it is our belief that all children should reach their full potential. Teachers will follow a carefully planned curriculum that builds on a learner's knowledge and skills throughout their time at The Link Academy. Recall and retrieval strategies that interleave and space curriculum content and skills are planned and delivered within each lesson to increase the likelihood of a persistent change in long term memory. To improve learner confidence and resilience, teachers will regularly use Demonstrate and Connect activities as a way of providing formative feedback so that all learners progress.

We will enrich our curriculum by providing learners with creative and engaging classroom activities, and fieldwork opportunities both in and out of school. This will allow them to develop their geographical thinking and skills and apply them to real life examples.

By following this approach, it is our belief that teaching our young people how to think like a Geographer, will allow them to become informed citizens, in the hope that they will make choices in their lives that contribute to a future that is socially, economically and environmentally sustainable once they leave The Link Academy.

How does assessment fit in?

In all years, interim knowledge-check assessments are in place to ensure the natural forgetting cycle is interrupted and there is a greater chance of key substantive knowledge being transferred into long-term-memory. Formative assessment takes place using carefully selected, and where required, scaffolded Demonstrate and Connect activities which will be marked by the teacher to provide personalised feedback to each class. This regular and on-going cycle allows learners to be given the opportunity to improve and see the next steps in progression.

At KS3, structured essay style questions to answer an over-arching enquiry-based question consolidate learning at the end of each topic.

At KS4, summative assessments reflect the layout of the GCSE exams in order to expose our learners to this style of assessment as early as possible. As the first unit of the GCSE is taught at the end of year 9, this allows all summative assessments from year 10 onwards to assess learning from a range of KS4 topics taught, therefore not just assessing the most recent content.

How does extra-curricular for **Geography** benefit our learners?

The Geography Team has an established, pupil-led Eco-Club which has been running successfully for the past academic year. Here, learners have the opportunity to lead on helping the school to become a more sustainable environment through a range of different activities. Their achievements already include receiving the Eco-Schools award (awarded with merit) and the Plastic Free Schools award, as well as raising awareness of environmental issues both in school and the local community through meetings with our CEO and local MP. Pupils from across all years are able to work collaboratively, developing various skills including team-work, planning, presentation and leadership skills. Most importantly they will continue on their journey to become sustainable citizens, having a positive impact on the school environment and local area.