

Curriculum Intent Statement for Geography

Intent

The geography curriculum at GM School is designed to create and answer questions about both the natural and human worlds. Students we teach love to learn geography and become empathetic, critical and knowledgeable about the world around them.

Implementation

We teach students the knowledge & skills needed to be good geographers:

- Understanding of locations and places
- Understanding of patterns processes and environmental change
- Competence in geographical enquiry
- Ability to interpret and analyse geographical information
- Communicate showing high levels of fluency, articulation and complex vocabulary.

EYFS

In EYFS, children learn to talk about the lives of the people around them and their roles and societies. They describe their immediate environment using maps and observation, and are exposed to geographical thinking through story and role-play. They learn about similarities and differences between different communities and compare life in this country with life in other countries.

KS1/KS2

Geography is taught as a discrete subject each alternate half term but where relevant, links are forged and deepened through other subjects. Our children know when they are 'doing' Geography.

To excite and engage pupils, we use a range of sources and experiences. These include maps, globes, artefacts, visitors, workshops, field trips, videos, books, drama and stories. As with our core subjects, we use our feedback and marking policy to inform next steps so that all pupils make progress.

Engaging and inclusive geography lessons are planned so that all pupils learn and develop a love for the subject. The curriculum follows the National Curriculum, making use of the United Learning programme of study. Geography is a rich source of cultural capital and the range of Geography activities we have both within and outside of lessons reflects the value we place on this. Pupils complete a pre- and post- unit assessment to support teachers to adapt the curriculum as required.

KS3

Our KS3 curriculum prepares students for KS4 by interleaving geographical concepts, skills and knowledge. The focus on interactions between the human and physical world is key within the GCSE specification and this is something we believe is the reason why geography is important, therefore we introduce these ideas from the first SOW in year 7 through to the last in Y9. We emphasise links, nothing we teach is standalone, just like no Geographical topic is, or indeed the world around us. We get students to practice the higher order skills of justifying, assessing, evaluating and analysing at KS3, skills which they need to be good Geographers and people. We teach revision strategies and effective self-assessment. We introduce GCSE assessment styles and questions with scaffolding and familiarise students with mark schemes to make GCSE assessments more accessible and students confident at KS4.

KS4

Our KS4 curriculum allows students to build upon knowledge and skills they have developed at KS3. We study a range of case studies to show to transfer their knowledge to specific places around the world, allowing students to see geography in action. We interleave topics throughout KS4, to show that both physical and human geography are linked and not standalone. Throughout Year 10 and 11, we advance learners ability to self-assess their work as well as teaching multiple revision strategies that they could use. All learning is scaffolded from the top, allowing all students to access the more difficult concepts, knowledge and skills.

Supporting your Primary Child

- Share stories and photographs about the past from personal experiences, including those from other countries
- Engage children with planning day trips e.g. knowing the tube map, using a SatNav, reading road signs on car journey
- Add a children's atlas to their bookshelf – and look at it together
- Explore different types of interactive digital maps. Find your home on a satellite map and plot your route to school!
- Watch documentaries like Blue Planet II together
- Use the excellent (and free) lesson videos available at Oak National Academy
- Explore the wonderful resources available on BBC Bitesize
- Display a world map and refer to it daily when listening to/watching the news, talking about sport, animals etc. Challenge each other to find certain countries as quickly as possible.
- Choose children's TV with Geography in mind. We love the Go Jetters!

Supporting your Secondary Student

- Encourage your child to read as much as possible from a wide range of sources. You should always have an atlas at home and a World, European or UK map on the bedroom wall is always helpful in encouraging learning.

Where could Geography take you next?

Geography is an exciting and dynamic study that incorporates an understanding of the physical world, as well as an appreciation of different peoples and cultures – and the way in which human endeavour is shaped by the environment.

Learning about the geography is enjoyable and intrinsically worthwhile but geography also has the added benefit of potentially providing a key to unlocking a better future. Geographers become environmental consultants, urban planners, cartographers, geoscientists, NGO employees, civil servants and much more!