

EMMANUEL COLLEGE
THE GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT
Philosophical Statement



Geography is one of the world's oldest disciplines. It enables us to explore and understand the relationships between the Earth and its people and with the environment, and how humanity understands who we are and how we have in the past, do now, and will in the future, interact with our natural environment. A focus across the curriculum is to enable students to explore how we are causing damage, on a local and global scale, but also about how we are making changes in order to reverse these challenges. It's important to remind students that the way we live isn't fixed; it's constantly changing and it's crucial to be aware that we are in control of those changes.

Our curriculum is designed to enable all students, no matter their ability, background or starting and end points, to comprehend what is happening in the world; to recognise the great differences in landscapes and cultures across the world; and to think sensitively about other people's views and opinions. We hope to give our students a fantastic understanding of the world in which they live which makes them better stewards of the environment, rich in knowledge and skills that they can use in future and even pass on to their family and friends and future colleagues. The knowledge our students gain will help them develop a curiosity and fascination about the world and the impact they can have on it spatially and temporally. Through case studies and fieldwork, students will be able to foster a sense of belonging as well as a curiosity that will remain with them throughout the rest of their lives.

Our course is designed to offer progression in both knowledge and skills as students move from year to year. Geography provides a magnitude of transferable skills which can be applied beyond the geography classroom. This provides the framework for students to grow in character and become more knowledgeable, wise, and responsible future global citizens whatever field of work they go into.

Geography is far more than how much students know and what knowledge they can regurgitate, although the knowledge is a key foundation. It is about how they can interpret unfamiliar content and apply their knowledge to it confidently. There are a variety of skills that students learn and these skills are built in from the first day they study geography.

Emmanuel Geographers will observe the world around them both inside and outside classroom. They will collect and gather information accurately through the use of basic scientific equipment and will learn to understand and use maps and other media such as websites, photographs, pictures and literature. Students will interpret the data that they have observed, confidently present this information to others and make informed decisions based on their findings to understand causes, make links and explain patterns.

Fieldwork opportunities allow students to develop their planning, recording and timekeeping skills, they also provide an opportunity to conduct risk assessments and to work productively and effectively alongside others as part of a group. These skills will continue to be utilised throughout future GCSE and A Level fieldwork courses. The focus on cartographic, graphical and fieldwork skills within this topic equips students with key nuggets of information which underpin the essentials of being a good geographer. Notably, as well as improving their verbal communication and presentation skills, our students will be able to 'write like a Geographer' by using a range of key geographical words and phrases.

Through studying geography, students will become true global citizens, passionate about people around the world, and committed to protecting our environment for future generations. They will be part of a worldwide effort to stem the destruction of the natural environment and courageous in their efforts to reach across cultures and nations to promote tolerance and partnership in tackling tomorrow's global problems.