



GEOGRAPHY
INTENT STATEMENT

Gunnersbury's Catholic School Mission Statement

"Gunnersbury Catholic School strives to educate all its pupils within an environment where the Catholic traditions of learning, truth, justice, respect and community are promoted."

'Ad Altiora' - 'To Higher Things.'

- Every Catholic school has a mission statement that encapsulates its distinctive job or core purpose.
- The mission statement **puts faith at the heart of all we do at school** and incorporates our school motto.
- It speaks of inclusivity and respect, that we understand as important Gospel values.
- It reminds us that Christ is at that centre of all that we do and by extension, as his creations we are all obligated to treat every member of our community with respect and love.
- It speaks of our aspirations for all in our community and our will to do all we can to make these a reality

INTENT

To deliver a Geography education that allows all young people to understand their place within the world and to explore their interactions within both physical and human geographies now, and in the future.

The Geography department at Gunnersbury Catholic School is very successful, combining a track record of consistently excellent exam results, with numerous fieldwork opportunities and an emphasis on the student's wider role as a citizen.

As far as possible an enquiry- based approach to learning is encouraged. Geography lessons throughout the school facilitate the development of a wide variety of transferable skills, including questioning, group work, decision making, listening, debating, empathy and problem solving. A variety of resources - including photographs, DVDs, mini whiteboards, model making, music and interactive whiteboard activities - are used to enable students to develop their geographical skills and understanding.'

At Gunnersbury Catholic School we believe that Geography helps to provoke and provide answers to questions about the natural and human aspects of the world. Children are encouraged to develop a greater understanding and knowledge of the world, as well as their place in it. The geography curriculum at Gunnersbury enables children to develop knowledge and skills that are transferable to other curriculum areas and which can and are used to promote their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Geography is, by nature, an investigative subject, which develops and understanding of concepts, knowledge and skills. We seek to inspire in children a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people which will remain with them for the rest of their lives; to promote the children's interest and understanding of diverse places, people, resources, and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes.

Within A-Level pupils are encouraged to further their thinking with relevant issues that are dynamic today. Curiosity is continued to be an important aspect that is at the centre of the curriculum with

the real idea of synoptic themes being a key focus. We thrive to encourage this level of thinking amongst pupils. Furthermore, pupils look at the common themes regarding attitude, players, and future uncertainties as the basis for most points. Pupils apply this through a range of physical and human topics with a real focus on scale and locational knowledge. The curriculum is designed to develop knowledge and skills that are progressive, as well as transferable, throughout their time at Gunnersbury and to their further education and beyond.

IMPLEMENTATION

Geography at Gunnersbury is taught through topics and 'place' throughout each year, so that children can achieve depth in their learning. We teach the National Curriculum and through this teachers have identified the key knowledge and skills of each topic. Consideration has been given to ensure progression across topics throughout each year group across the school. At the beginning of each topic, children are able to convey what they know already as well as what they would like to find out. This informs the programme of study and also ensures that lessons are relevant and take account of children's different starting points. Consideration is given to how greater depth will be taught, learnt and demonstrated within each lesson, as well as how learners will be supported in line with the school's commitment to inclusion. Cross curricular outcomes in geography are specifically planned for, with strong links between geography and literacy identified, planned for and utilised. The local area is utilised, with opportunities for learning outside the classroom embedded in practice.

At A-Level this is implemented through the regular use of case study examples to allow pupils to understand how physical and human aspects are not only constantly changing but interdependent upon one another. A range of extra resources involving organisations such as the Royal Geographical Society (RGS) and Geography In Action (GIA) allow pupils to explore beyond the classroom – whilst also using fieldwork and NEA (Non-Examined Assessment) opportunities to enhance knowledge.

IMPACT

Outcomes in exercise books and online learning platforms evidence a broad and balanced geography curriculum and demonstrate children's acquisition of identified key knowledge. By the time students leave Gunnersbury Catholic School they will:

- Have an excellent knowledge of where places are and what they are like.
- Have an excellent understanding of the ways in which places are interdependent and interconnected and how much human and physical environments are interrelated.
- Have an extensive base of geographical knowledge and vocabulary.
- Be fluent in complex, geographical enquiry and the ability to apply questioning skills and use effective analytical and presentational techniques.

- Have the ability to reach clear conclusions and develop a reasoned argument to explain findings.
- Be able to carry out a variety of fieldwork techniques and other geographical skills.
- Have a passion for and commitment to the subject, and a real sense of curiosity to find out about the world and the people who live there.
- Can express well-balanced opinions, rooted in very good knowledge and understanding about current and contemporary issues in society and the environment.
- After A-Level – pupils will be able to develop synoptic links related to the current world
- A deeper and more comprehensive understanding of how dynamic the world can act with regards to future views
- A wider range of players involved in critical decision-making processes