

Geography Curriculum

Statement of Intent

The Geography Department intends to provide students with an engaging and stimulating opportunity to become excellent geographers. In addition to providing a robust foundation of the skills, knowledge and understanding pupils need to succeed at GCSE and A-level, Nishkam High School's Faith-inspired Virtues-led approach is carefully woven throughout our curriculum at all key stages, and provides the perfect lens through which pupils can begin to 'make sense of their world, and face the challenges that will shape our societies and environments at local, national and global scales.' (Rita Gardner, Director, Royal Geographical Society).

Following Bruner's theory of a 'spiral curriculum', our innovative KS3 programme of study provides students with the opportunity to visit and revisit key substantive concepts and practise disciplinary skills through an array of captivating themes or topics. These include extended place studies (e.g. Iceland, California and the Lake District) and also topics based on books (e.g. 'Into Thin Air' and 'Walking The Nile'). These latter examples highlight the department's focus on reading and literature to supplement pupil's studies and understanding, and from KS3 to KS5 this provides an invaluable *hinterland curriculum*, from which pupils can add meaning and context, thereby accessing the full curriculum offer.

The knowledge and skills obtained during the KS3 curriculum provide the runway from which pupils can go on to succeed at KS4 and KS5, providing both the skills and qualifications required for future learning and a wide array of employment opportunities. The needs of all pupils are met through the carefully designed curriculum and teaching expertise, and pupils who had a lesser experience of geography in primary school, and those with SEND can make as much progress as their peers.

One of the greatest assets of geography is its grounding in the real world and relatable experiences. As such the opportunity to take students out of the classroom is highly prized and pursued throughout the programme of study. Trips, visits and experiences – whether very local or further afield – allow for a gain in cultural capital for all students, irrespective of experience or background.