

GEOGRAPHY AT THE OPEN ACADEMY

Our school vision **“Courage in every step, faith in every journey”**

As a subject that looks at a variety of places and cultures we frequently embody the Open Academy values below. We are fortunate to have a local location close to woodlands, heathlands, wetlands, coasts and major urban settlement. Through our studies we learn that our every lives connect us to far flung places in the world. We learn to appreciate our roles as stewards of Earth and its resources.

RESPECT	ASPIRATION	PERSEVERANCE
<p>Students will show respect for cultures and communities by learning about different ways of life without stereotypes. Through learning about human activities we gain respect for the environment by understanding ecosystems, sustainability, and the impact humans have on the planet. We explore complex issues and develop a respect for differing perspectives when studying migration, development, or climate change.</p>	<p>We aspire to improve places by exploring solutions to problems such as poverty, urban overcrowding, or climate change. By carrying out fieldwork investigations we set goals in geographical skills, such as improving map-reading, data analysis, or fieldwork techniques. Through topics such as environmental studies, urban planning, disaster management, or international development we inspire students to become problem solvers in future careers.</p>	<p>Several topics in Geography such as climate systems, global development and learning case studies across different topics can require perseverance. We often conduct fieldwork despite difficulties, like poor weather, or things not going according to plan with data, we encourage students to persevere against the odds. Many topics studied are not easily solved and there are often no simple answers, recent questions around energy use, adaptations to changing climates and geo-political disputes require diplomacy and understanding of many differing perspectives.</p>
SPIRITUALITY	GLOBAL CITIZENS	AWE AND WONDER
<p>In Geography we encourage students to discover their natural sense of awe and wonder about the world around us. We reflect on our place in the world, in a developed country, in the western edge of Europe. Through the study of volcanoes, coastal erosion and river landforms we foster wonder. Through the study of globalisation we appreciate our interconnected lives and the diversity of culture in developing countries. We question the fairness of in-equality and we ask difficult questions about how we can live more sustainably in harmony with nature. We learn about our environmental responsibilities as custodians of the Earth’s resources.</p>	<p>As global citizens ourselves we recognise our dependence on other people and places of the world. We study the globalisation of trade and learn about the impacts decisions made in one country can affect another, e.g. the demand for palm oil and rainforest destruction. On complex issues like energy use and climate change we respect peoples differing opinions. When studying extreme poverty and the impact of natural hazards we learn to empathise and to evaluate solutions.</p>	<p>Through physically visiting landscapes outside of our classroom like the Norfolk Coast or a large city we allow students to discover new places. By observing evidence in our surroundings we begin to question the processes that created them, we use photographic evidence and OS maps to question how both man-made and natural landscapes were created and how they are changing over time.</p>