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Our vision for Geography at Lister:

The dictionary describes Geography rather blandly as 'the study of the physical features of the earth and its atmosphere, and of human activity as it affects and is affected by these, including the distribution of populations and resources and political and economic activities'. At Lister we prefer to view it in terms of its literal meaning, '**earth-writing**', and see it as the Geographical Association does - as the ancient but never-ending task of describing and making sense of the world. Viewed in this way, we are literally trying to provide students with a 'language' that allows them to look at, think about and reflect on their world. In doing so we also strive to inspire in pupils a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives.

Thinking 'geographically' requires students to develop an understanding of:

- **The physical world** (including processes and change)
- **Human environments** (societies, communities and human processes)
- **Interdependence** (between the human and physical world)
- **Places and spaces** (recognising similarities and differences across the world, developing knowledge of location, interconnectedness and spatial location)
- **Scale** (local, regional, national, international and global perspectives)

And finally also 'young people's lives' – using their own images, experiences, meanings and questions as active agents in their learning. Harnessing their cultural capital in this way and attempting to link it to current affairs, both locally and globally, helps to not only motivate the students themselves but enrich the curriculum for their peers too.

Geography is unique in the way it draws and brings together a broad range of disciplines including biology, chemistry, maths, history and even religious studies and sociology. '**Thinking like a geographer**', as it has already been referred to, is what is required to make sense of the world and the interconnectedness between all these disciplines.

A **key feature** that distinguishes Geography from other subjects **is fieldwork**. Fieldwork allows students to learn in the 'real world' where it is not just the geographical value that is important but also experiencing the landscape features, busy urban streets, unfamiliar cultures, extremes of weather and the journey to the venue itself which helps ground the pupils' local environment in the context of the global – which also aids self-development.

Geography, with its wide breadth, has many links to and creates many opportunities for discussion around both PSHE and SMSC. It seems inconceivable for young people to be able to make sense of their world without a deeper understanding of contemporary issues like: the impact of climate change, migration, the development gap and inequality that exists between wealthier and poorer nations, the threat posed by weather and tectonic hazards, the planet's dwindling resources and the urgent need for us all to live more sustainably.