



SELBORNE COLLEGE

2026

HEAD OF GEOGRAPHY: MR J FOURIE

GEOGRAPHY



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**SELBORNE
COLLEGE**

GEOGRAPHY

MORE THAN A SUBJECT

At Selborne College, Geography is far more than maps, climate graphs, and case studies. It is the study of the world a boy will inherit, and the responsibility he will carry within it.

Geography matters because it teaches a boy where he stands in the world, physically, socially, economically, and morally.

"GEOGRAPHY FORMS PERSPECTIVE."

A Selborne boy learns that:

- His actions affect more than just himself.
- Drought in the Karoo, flooding in KZN, or conflict in other parts of Africa are not isolated events.
- The world is interconnected.
- Geography forces a young man to move beyond his own experience.
- It builds awareness, of people, place, environment, inequality, and opportunity.

It helps form:

- Responsibility (understanding environmental stewardship)
- Empathy (recognising different lived realities)
- Perspective (seeing beyond one's immediate circle)

A boy who understands space, scale, and systems begins to understand consequences.



GEOGRAPHY BUILDS STRONG INTELLECTUAL HABITS THAT SHAPE CHARACTER.

CRITICAL THINKING

Geographers ask:

- Why here?
- Why not there?
- What are the causes?
- What are the impacts?

This develops analytical thinking — the ability to weigh evidence, identify patterns, and form reasoned conclusions.



EVIDENCE-BASED REASONING

Through climate graphs, GIS, mapwork, and data analysis, boys learn:

- To interpret information carefully.
- To argue from evidence.
- To question assumptions.

This builds intellectual honesty and discipline.

CURIOSITY

Geography encourages asking questions about:

- Why cities grow where they do.
- Why some countries prosper and others struggle.
- How climate systems shape human life.

Curiosity fuels lifelong learning.

SELBORNE'S ETHOS IS ABOUT PRODUCING MEN WHO LEAD WITH INTEGRITY AND INTELLIGENCE.

STEWARDSHIP

Understanding climate change, drought, water scarcity, and sustainability instils:

- A sense of guardianship.
- Respect for natural systems.
- Long-term thinking.

In a country like South Africa, this is not theoretical, it is practical.

Geography contributes by developing young men who:

- Think globally but act responsibly locally.
- Understand South Africa's challenges.
- Can analyse complex systems.
- Are not overwhelmed by global problems, but equipped to engage with them.

A Selborne boy who studies Geography learns that the world is not random, that it has patterns and those patterns can be understood. It is this understanding that drives improvement.



THE SELBORNE APPROACH

At Selborne College, Geography is taught as a discipline of thinking, analysis and responsible engagement with the modern world. It is not about memorising content, but about understanding systems, interpreting evidence and solving real-world problems.

Our approach rests on several core principles.

Conceptual Understanding

Boys are taught to understand interconnected systems, including climate, urban, economic and environmental systems. They learn how individual components interact and how change in one area affects another. The focus is on depth of understanding rather than surface learning.

Evidence-Based Thinking

Geography trains boys to interpret graphs, analyse statistical data, evaluate sources and construct structured arguments. They are taught to argue from evidence rather than opinion. In an age of misinformation, this discipline of careful reasoning is essential.



Integration of Technology

Modern Geography is shaped by technology, and so is our classroom. Learners are exposed to Geographic Information Systems, digital mapping tools, satellite imagery, climate databases and data visualisation software.

They learn to interpret spatial data, analyse digital maps and identify patterns using authentic datasets. Technology is used not as an add-on, but as a means of strengthening analytical precision and digital literacy.

Relevance to South Africa

Teaching is grounded in South African realities. Topics such as water scarcity, urbanisation, climate variability, land reform and disaster risk management are explored in context. Boys are encouraged to think critically about the challenges facing their country and their role within it.

Intellectual Rigour and Character Formation

Geography challenges boys to identify cause and effect, evaluate sustainability and propose realistic solutions. At the same time, it develops environmental responsibility, awareness of inequality and long-term thinking.

Understanding the world, they learn, carries responsibility.



ACADEMIC SUPPORT AND ASSESSMENT

We recognise that boys develop at different rates and provide structured support to build both competence and confidence.

Structured Support

Clear scaffolded notes, step-by-step mapwork methodology, essay frameworks and revision guides ensure that learners are equipped with the tools they need to succeed.

Intervention and Feedback

Targeted extra lessons, individual consultations and focused examination preparation sessions are available when needed. Feedback is specific, constructive and designed to promote improvement. No boy should feel overwhelmed by Geography, and no boy should feel unchallenged.



"IF GEOGRAPHY ITSELF HAS ANY SIGNIFICANCE IT IS THAT WE ARE MADE TO LIFT OUR EYES FROM OUR SMALL PROVINCIAL SELVES TO THE WHOLE COMPLEX AND MAGNIFICENT WORLD."



Assessment Culture

Assessment is designed to promote growth rather than anxiety. A balanced programme includes data response questions, essays, mapwork, research tasks and formal examinations.

The focus is on interpretation, analysis, synthesis and evaluation. Boys are explicitly taught how to structure extended responses, respond to command words and refine their written arguments. Assessment becomes a tool for development, not simply a measure of performance.



EXCELLENCE IN ACTION

Selborne College has continued to demonstrate strong academic commitment and consistent performance in Geography over the past six years.

The department reflects a culture of academic seriousness, professional excellence, and active engagement beyond the classroom. This report outlines matric performance trends, learner achievements, departmental involvement, and broader educational impact.

Matric Performance Trends (2020–2025)

The Geography Department has maintained a 100% pass rate consistently from 2020 to 2025, which is a clear indicator of stability and effective academic support.

Year	Mean %	Distinctions	Top Candidate	Top Mark	Pass Rate
2020	58%	5	Samual Mountfort	93%	100%
2021	60%	6	James Laing	91%	100%
2022	59%	0	—	—	100%
2023	60%	6	Reynhardt Minnaar	88%	100%
2024	63%	8	Thomas Marais	88%	100%
2025	56%	1	Thomas Caswell	87%	100%

The department achieved its highest mean (63%) and highest number of distinctions (8) in 2024.

- Even in more challenging years, the department maintained a 100% pass rate.
- The 2023 and 2024 results reflect strong upward momentum.



Provincial Recognition

In both 2023 and 2024, Selborne College was recognised by the Eastern Cape Department of Education as the Top Performing School in Geography at provincial level.

This distinction reflects sustained academic rigour, consistent learner achievement and a department committed to high standards.

The department has maintained a 100 percent pass rate, with consistent production of distinctions across cohorts. While individual results naturally fluctuate from year to year, the long-term trend reflects stability and professionalism.

Academic Depth Beyond the Classroom

Geography at Selborne extends beyond textbook learning.

Learners are exposed to real-world geographical applications, particularly in Geographic Information Systems, strengthening both practical understanding and career awareness. Guest speakers and applied learning opportunities ensure the subject remains current and relevant.

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The department is strongly represented at provincial marking level:

- Mr Sandford, Past Examiner with 25 years of service
- Mrs Gumunyu, Senior Marker
- Mr Fourie, Head of Department and former Senior Marker
- Mr Cousins, previously Deputy Chief Marker at marking level

This involvement ensures a deep understanding of examination standards, accurate internal moderation and strong alignment with provincial assessment expectations.

Department Vitality and Forward Outlook

Parents and stakeholders can take confidence in the department's:

- Sustained academic performance
- Provincial recognition
- Examination-aligned expertise
- Active district and community involvement
- Ongoing commitment to professional growth and collaboration

Geography at Selborne reflects a culture of steady excellence, thoughtful leadership and responsible engagement with the world beyond the classroom.





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THE SELBORNE MAN

At Selborne College, we are not merely preparing boys to pass examinations, win fixtures, or collect accolades. We are forming young men.

A Selborne man is:

- **Intellectually Disciplined**
He thinks carefully. He questions respectfully. He pursues understanding rather than surface familiarity. He is not afraid of rigour.
- **Morally Grounded**
He understands responsibility. He acts with integrity when no one is watching. He knows that character is revealed in pressure.
- **Courageous in Effort**
He does not withdraw from difficulty. Whether in the classroom, on the field, or on the stage, he learns to persist.
- **Articulate and Thoughtful**
He can express his ideas clearly. He listens as well as he speaks. He engages the world with curiosity rather than cynicism.
- **Committed to Brotherhood**
He understands that strength is built in community. He supports others. He leads by example.
- **Prepared for the Future**
He leaves Selborne adaptable, capable, and ready to contribute meaningfully to society. Every subject, every sport, every society exists to shape these qualities.

That is the Selborne standard.

