

PRESS RELEASE

Primary Geography Quality Mark Award 2011

Silver award schools 'lead effective whole school approaches that support excellence in geography'

Forty nine primary schools have achieved the Geographical Association's **Primary Geography Quality Mark (PGQM) Award** following the latest round of moderation in this the fifth year of the award. **This included 21 schools who have returned to achieve the award for a second time and 2 schools have returned for a third time.** The Primary Geography Quality Mark is seen as a key strategy for raising the quality of geography in primary schools.

At **Silver** level the award is in recognition of the implementation of whole school approaches that support excellence in geography. In 2011 the successful **Silver level** PGQM schools are:

Abbey Court School, Strood, Kent

Austrey CE Primary School, Austrey, Warwickshire

Dorney County Combined School, Maidenhead, Bucks

Elmwood Junior School, Croydon, Surrey

Furneux Pelham Primary School, Furneux Pelham, Herts

Hawkshead Esthwaite Primary, Ambleside, Cumbria

Holymead Infants School, Brislington, Bristol

Longden CE Primary School, Shrewsbury, Shropshire

Orchard House School, Chiswick, London

Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Dartford, Kent

St Bede's RC Primary School, Redcar, Cleveland

St John's Catholic Primary, Poulton Le Fylde, Lancs

St Thomas More RC Primary School, Manchester, Lancs

The Oaks Infant School, Sittingbourne, Kent

Tithe Barn Primary School, Stockport, Cheshire

Unicorn School, Richmond, Surrey

In these schools teachers ensure policies impact on pupil learning and are not afraid to take risks, and innovate and challenge to achieve progress in geography. Key threads through the curriculum are inter-cultural understanding, local fieldwork, environmental issues and dilemmas connected with sustainability. These are explored in a variety of places across the world from local to global. These schools use creative approaches to stimulate learning and place a high value on using real life issues to promote understanding.

In total over 251 schools have now achieved the Primary Geography Quality Mark award since its launch in 2006. This includes 41 schools who have achieved the award twice, **and two schools Halterworth Community Primary School in Hampshire and Hawkinge Primary School in Kent who have achieved the award 3 times!** In this round we have six schools that have achieved the Gold award including the two mentioned above, something that The Geographical Association feels is a significant achievement!

Wendy North, The Geographical Association project leader for the PGQM award says:

“The Geographical Association moderators have been thrilled with the quality of the learning and scale of the work achieved in our award schools. Many schools submitted inspiring examples of ways that geography can help young people to gain a fuller understanding of the complex and interdependent world in which we all live. An important criteria for us, when deciding on the award, is that schools use the subject to promote creativity, ensure active learning within school and in the outdoor classroom and develop links with other subjects both rigorously and imaginatively. We saw many examples of the way geography can make a real difference to pupil learning and to staff understanding and enthusiasm, especially when led by a keen subject leader who is supported by a headteacher who sees the subject’s potential.”

Ipsos MORI survey 2009:

A great majority of young people think it is important to learn about issues affecting different parts of the world, particularly how the world they live in may change.

Geography is the subject in which young people have most often learnt about/discussed these issues at school, and the one in which they most commonly expect to do so.

Professor David Lambert GA Chief Executive says:

A person growing up in the 21st century as a global citizen (and all that implies) is at a disadvantage without geographical knowledge – economically, culturally and politically. Understanding geographical perspectives contributes to our capabilities as educated individuals and members of society. Aug 2010

(Add your school quote below)

A spokesperson for the school says ... (e.g. Chair of Governors, HT, Subject Leader)

-ends-

Note to Editors:

A summary of the moderator feedback is available from the school. Each school that has achieved the Primary Geography Quality Award is actively working to raise the standards of geography teaching and learning for their pupils. Further information about the award can be accessed at:

www.geography.org.uk/eyprimary/primaryqualitymark/

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