



## PRESS RELEASE TEMPLATE

Primary Geography Quality Mark Award 2013

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

Fifty-one primary schools have achieved the Geographical Association's **Primary Geography Quality Mark (PGQM) Award** in 2013 following the latest round of moderation. The Primary Geography Quality Mark is seen as a key strategy for raising the quality of geography in primary schools and has been driving school improvement in geography since 2006.

At **Silver** level the award is in recognition of the implementation of whole school approaches that support excellence in geography. In 2013 the successful **Silver level** PGQM schools are:

Ardleigh Green Junior School, Hornchurch, Essex  
Ashcott Primary School, Ashcott, Bridgwater, Somerset  
Audley Primary School, Caterham, Surrey  
Beech Hill School, Halifax  
Bishop Road Primary School, Bishopston, Bristol  
Copnor Junior School, Copnor, Portsmouth  
Eaton Park Primary, Bentilee, Bucknall, Stoke On Trent  
Fieldcourt Junior School, Quedgeley, Gloucester  
Fielding Primary School, London  
Haveley Hey Community School, Benchill, Wythenshawe, Manchester  
John Blow Primary School, Collingham, Newark, Notts  
Kingsley Primary School, West Croydon, Surrey  
Merchant Taylors Junior Boys School, Crosby, Liverpool

Mylnhurst Prep School & Nursery, Ecclesall, Sheffield  
South Walney Junior School, Walney Island, Barrow in Furness, Cumbria  
St Austin's RC Primary, St Helens, Merseyside  
St Asaph VP Infant School, St Asaph, Denbeighshire  
St Georges (VC) CE Primary School , Wrotham , Kent  
St Stephens Primary School, Twickenham  
The Willows Primary School, Wythenshawe, Manchester  
Thorn Grove Primary School, Chedle Hulme, Cheadle, Cheshire

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 330 schools have achieved the Primary Geography Quality Mark award since its launch in 2006. This includes 71 who have achieved the award twice and seven who have achieved it three times. In this round we have seen a total of eleven schools achieve the Gold level, 21 the Silver level & 19 the Bronze level which the Geographical Association considers to be a significant achievement!

**Paula Owens, The Geographical Association project leader for the PGQM award says:**

*“The Geographical Association moderators are always impressed by the high quality of the submissions and the work that has gone into ensuring that pupils have access to quality geography. It is heartening to see the range of schools across the country, and wider afield, who believe that a broad and balanced curriculum matters. When you have high-achieving ‘Outstanding’ schools who say that geography is an integral driver of their curriculum and schools in challenging contexts who explain how geography has helped to engage pupils and raise standards, it reminds us how powerful geography can be in knowledgeable hands.*

*We are seeing a greater number of schools using our CPD materials to develop their understanding of the subject and then engaging with the PGQM framework to drive improvement. These subject leaders have worked extremely hard to evidence not just what has been achieved but to show how it has impacted where it matters: on pupils’ learning, understanding and enjoyment of the subject. This year we are*

*presenting all subject leaders whose schools have achieved the Gold PGQM, with honorary Geography Champion status for the duration of the Award. This provides a portable recognition of their personal expertise should they move to another school and further strengthens the links between the Geography Champions' network and the PGQM centres of excellence. We congratulate all schools and their subject leaders who have worked so hard to achieve this award"*

### **Ofsted 2011 Geography Subject Report 'Making a World of Difference'**

*"Developing a deeper understanding of people and places, and of the need to live in balance with an increasingly fragile environment, is more important than ever in today's world."*

#### **Alan Kinder GA Chief Executive says:**

*"There has never been a more important time for all children and young people to study geography. Growing up in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century means living in an increasingly interconnected world, one facing a growing number of global challenges such as climate change and the need to live our lives sustainably. Geography not only fascinates and inspires young people, it provides them with the knowledge and understanding they need to live in the modern world. Geography is, as we say in the GA's Manifesto, "fundamental to everyone" and I am delighted that a growing number of primary schools are teaching their students to fully engage with the subject."*

#### **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/](http://www.geography.org.uk/eyprimary/primaryqualitymark/)

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