

The Geographical Association

Who are we?

The GA is a lively *community of practice* with a proud history of innovation and an unrivalled understanding of geography teaching. Most members join the GA for the advice and resources they need every day in the classroom. Many enjoy closer involvement, by volunteering for special interest working groups, sharing their skills and experiences with fellow teachers and helping drive the GA and geography forward.

What do we do?

The GA promotes, supports and develops geography *subject leadership* at all levels, from new teachers in their initial training to geography subject coordinators in primary schools and heads of department in secondary schools.

What's so special about geography?

Geography helps us make sense of the world. Geography tackles the big issues: environmental responsibility; our global interdependence; cultural understanding and tolerance; commerce, trade and industry. Strong, purposeful and enjoyable geography is essential to any school or college curriculum.

Curriculum development

The GA runs 'teacher led' local curriculum development projects, currently under the DfES funded Action Plan for Geography, and has also shown how a strong and confident community of geography teachers can work productively in cross-curricular settings; recently the GA has worked on funded projects with teachers of English, science and mathematics.

National and local

Much of the GA's work is coordinated nationally. The GA also has a highly valued network of affiliated Branches, each with its own identity and its own priorities. Some new GA Branches are oriented around the notion of '*Living Geography*' – local resources and expertise harnessed to share approaches to teaching and learning about sustainable futures in the local area.

International

With members in over forty countries, the GA has always had a strong interest in international understanding and offers grants for international initiatives.

Personalised subject CPD for you

Membership:

Join online (www.geography.org.uk) or phone 0114 296 0088. Choose one, two or three journals (*Primary Geographer*, *Teaching Geography*, *Geography*). Receive *GA Magazine* for no extra charge three times a year.

Conferences:

The GA Annual Conference and Exhibition is the largest CPD event of its kind, for teachers in all phases. Full details at www.geography.org.uk/conference

Publications:

The acclaimed series of *GA Handbooks* forms the core in-school CPD resource for geography subject leaders in schools (*Early Years*; *Primary*; *Secondary*). See www.geographyshop.org.uk for these and other GA learning materials for all phases – from *Barnaby Bear*, through *Superschemes* to *Changing Geography*.

Projects:

The GA leads teachers in school focussed curriculum development – notable in recent years have been *Living Geography*, *Valuing Places*, *Where will I live?* and *Disease Geographies*. See www.geography.org.uk/projects

Action Plan for Geography:

The GA, jointly and equally with the RGS-IBG, is leading the DfES funded Action Plan for Geography, enhancing the teaching and learning of geography in school. See www.geographyteachingtoday.org.uk

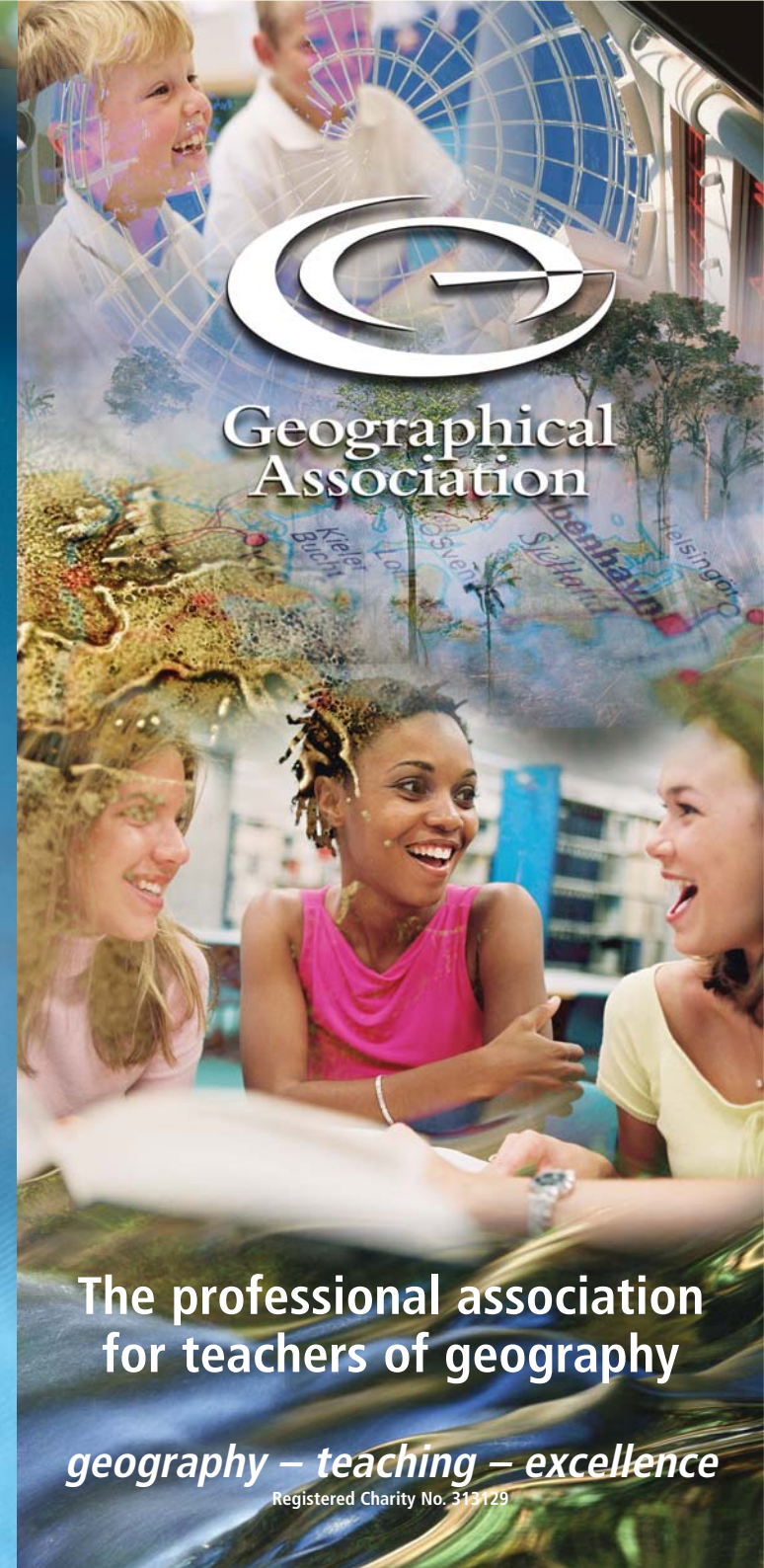
Quality Marks:

The GA's Primary and the Secondary *Geography Quality Marks* (PGQM and SGQM) lie at the heart of its support strategy, identifying quality criteria and appropriate tools for developing quality practice in schools.

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Geographical Association

The professional association for teachers of geography

geography – teaching – excellence

Registered Charity No. 313129



Geography

makes sense of the world

Geography – studying the Earth’s surface features and related human activity - has a vital place in the 21st century curriculum. Geography helps us understand our own lives in a global world and face vital issues like climate change, the ‘war on terror’, water, energy and food security and poverty eradication.

Geography offers fascinating insights into the way human and physical processes interact. We hear every day that the world is short of space, that human beings are placing greater and greater demands on the Earth and its systems. But what causes droughts, floods, hurricanes? Are they ‘natural phenomena’, or the result of human activity? Geography gives us the language and techniques to approach these questions with confidence.

Geography is the key to understanding places and people. All human societies have to arrange living space, economic production, distribution and consumption. People have many common needs and hopes. Yet no two places are alike. We can all see the differences and wonder about the reasons.

Geography, by studying real people in real places, shows how daily lives are shaped by local circumstances – not only the physical characteristics of the place, but the social, cultural, economic and political opportunities and constraints. Geography shows how each local place exists in a regional, national, international and global context.

Geography is a practical subject, teaching skills young people need across the school curriculum, at home and at work. Geography students learn about map use (including GIS), data analysis, problem solving and ICT. They find out how to work alone and in a team. They work directly in the real world – on ‘fieldwork’. They gain an awareness of social and environmental responsibility.

Geography should be on YOUR timetable!



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