

a different view

a manifesto from the Geographical Association



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GIS

'The GA believes in geographical enquiry: that is, in students as active participants and investigators, not just the passive recipients of knowledge.'

- A different view, April 2009

Geographical Information Systems (GIS) open up opportunities for students to think geographically as they analyse and apply spatial data when addressing geographical questions and issues at every scale. This is especially important in a world in which the causes of and solutions to problems are increasingly interconnected.

The part that GIS can play in the wider curriculum is also evident. It contributes to the development of skills and techniques in ICT, as well as linking geography with other subject areas. It can provide real contexts for the development of generic thinking and decision taking skills. There are clear links between GIS and numerous different types of employment, helping students appreciate the relevance of geographical studies and the value of the vocational skills they develop in a world where location is fundamental to finding solutions to problems.

The challenge is to offer opportunities for all students that will develop their understanding and competence in the use of GIS. To do this, its use needs to be progressive, integrated and used in ways that students can appreciate as being creative, engaging and motivating in satisfying their curiosity of their world.

WEBLINKS

<http://www.geography.org.uk/projects/gtip/thinkpieces/gis>

GIS in geography teaching and learning

<http://www.gis.rgs.org/>

Getting started with GIS

<http://mapzone.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapzone/giszone.html>

The Ordnance Survey's GIS Zone provides a basic introduction to GIS

http://www.ke5ways.bham.sch.uk/kegs/cpd/gis_index.htm

King Edward VI 5 Ways School in Birmingham makes extensive use of GIS, and has produced a valuable website