

# a different view

a manifesto from the Geographical Association



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## Professional Support

*'The GA believes that teachers should be accountable, but also that they are autonomous professionals driven by educational goals and purposes.'*

*- A different view, April 2009*

Designing an effective geography curriculum is a complex process. The key to success is confident, autonomous teachers. There are many challenges in trying to develop a geography curriculum for young people that represents meaningful, genuine and relevant approaches.

Firstly, geography as a resource in education is constantly changing. This is not just a matter of making sure facts and figures are up to date: the way geographers and others see the world changes over time.

We may need to learn more about the subject just to keep up-to-date with new developments or to inform ourselves on unfamiliar areas of the subject. There is also the need to develop engaging and compelling learning activities related to the teaching of specific aspects of geography.

One of the key roles of the Geographical Association is to provide effective CPD support for teachers. We see this as a planned process which takes into account 'reflective activity designed to improve an individual's attributes, knowledge, understanding and skills'. It should support 'the individual's needs and improve professional practice'. (*From the TDA definition of CPD*)

We hope that these links will enable you to develop your expertise, reflect on the approaches and methods embodied in the different resources you encounter, apply the methods elsewhere, adapt them as necessary, and evaluate this effectiveness. (*Online subject CPD: A report for the TDA January 2008*)

## WEBLINKS

<http://www.geography.org.uk/events>

Listings of forthcoming and past CPD events including the popular GA Annual Conference

<http://www.geography.org.uk/shop>

The Geographical Association online shop

<http://www.geography.org.uk/pgqm>

<http://www.geography.org.uk/sgqm>

Celebrate excellent geography in your school through the Primary and Secondary Geography Quality Marks

<http://www.geography.org.uk/secondary>

GA's Secondary Phase Committee on planning a new KS3

<http://www.geography.org.uk/eyprimary/champions>

Access a national network of groups of primary schools run by local Primary Geography Champions

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<http://www.geographyteachingtoday.org.uk/about-the-apg/local-support-and-networks/>

Advice on your local network and support available to set up new local networks

<http://www.geographyteachingtoday.org.uk>

The Geography Teaching Today website offers linked resources, online tutorials and curriculum CPD

<http://geographical.ning.com>

An online professional network for geography teachers