

# a different view

a manifesto from the Geographical Association



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## How to use *A different view*

This manifesto is our most recent and significant piece of direct subject association support for geography educators. The suggestions below are designed to help you use the manifesto and its wide range of supporting materials in various professional settings. Future issues of the GA journals will carry more detailed examples.

### Aims of the manifesto

- to support the professional activity of geography educators
- to engage teachers and senior leaders in professional dialogue about the key role of geography in a modern curriculum
- to engage young people with the wider world, helping them explore the issues that are important to them locally and globally.

## Using the materials in your school

### With colleagues

You can use the manifesto for various purposes, for example to evaluate the curriculum; to identify curriculum development possibilities; and to team-build.

At a departmental training day, you might set aside the immediate practical issues for one hour and use this hour for a discussion of the manifesto. Some guiding questions could be: 'Does our geography programme of study reflect the aims and purposes of the manifesto?' Following this discussion, 'Does the manifesto have any gaps or other weaknesses? Does our programme of study have any gaps or other weaknesses?' 'Can we identify one area of development for our geography inspired by the manifesto?'

### With the senior leadership team and governors

One of the key strengths of the manifesto is that it can help clarify, expand or 'correct' how geography is understood in senior leadership teams and governing bodies. Ask if you can use the manifesto in a curriculum meeting – all governing bodies should at least have a curriculum sub-committee, which you could seek to talk to about the manifesto. To set the wheels going, try writing a memo – for example:

To the Headteacher/Heads of Curriculum/Governors:

Please find enclosed a copy of *A different view – a manifesto from the Geographical Association*.

It is aimed at school leaders as well as geography teachers. It will help the school prepare for Ofsted by:

- evaluating the effectiveness of geography
- positioning geographical skills, knowledge and understanding in the curriculum.
- providing a focus for performance management
- considering geography's contribution to the wider curriculum
- supporting governors in their understanding of geography in the modern curriculum.

It is a potentially useful tool for all people leading schools. I am keen to discuss this with you and/or appropriate colleagues at a convenient time.

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## With parents

For parents' evenings and open days, download elements of the manifesto and print them in colour, to make your own poster explaining the geography in your school. Download the promotional [Animoto video](#) and project this on a loop in a place where parents (e.g. waiting to see you) can watch it.

## With students

One obvious way to use the manifesto with students is to integrate it into lessons. The website has numerous activities using the photograph 'families' – and you can adapt them to your circumstances.

Employ the language of the manifesto to help students themselves express what geography is about – 'Living Geography'; 'thinking geographically'; 'geographical futures', etc.

During the autumn term 2009 we are planning to send all schools a wall poster designed to appeal specifically to young people.

## Using the manifesto in a wider context

Local authority and/or strategy colleagues, ASTs and trainers will find the manifesto materials useful in these ways:

**1** The local authority Primary Strategy Manager and Consultant Team can use the manifesto materials to support the creative curriculum and revised frameworks in Literacy and Numeracy.

**2** The local authority Secondary Strategy Manager/Consultant/Advisory Teacher can share the materials at leadership team meetings, planning how to use them with the school and department. (Emphasise that the manifesto is potentially relevant to every leadership layer.)

**3** In the context of performance management, the manifesto materials could be used to support professional development, inspiring commitment to curriculum development, with Geography Quality Mark awards as an added incentive.

**4** The text and images can support the evaluation of geography classrooms in geography CPD meetings, to support whole-school engagement with Personal, Learning and Thinking Skills (e.g. creative thinkers) and the whole curriculum dimensions at key stage 3 (e.g. the global dimension and sustainable development).

**5** Geography network opportunities are rich – you could:

- benefit from the materials' consistent overview, explanation and opportunities
- develop your use of the images and share this with colleagues
- integrate your use of the materials into the next network meeting for dissemination
- use the manifesto materials at all key stages to stimulate learners' interest in geographical issues and develop high quality geography teaching
- take one family of photographs and identify ways of using it at options evenings, open evenings and careers evenings
- use the seven themes to support in-school or network-focussed pedagogical development
- to assist cross-phase transfer, you could use existing networks, e.g. MFL or AfL/APP, with a key stage 2/3 working group, to discuss the cross-phase application of the manifesto's ideas
- you can use the manifesto itself – or materials on the website – to formulate an inspiring set of transfer activities for students.