

Outcome of the TESIG discussion on 'Cross Curricular approaches in schools' June 2010

The group discussed the papers from Alan Kinder and Tom Biebrach at length. These papers were also the focus of discussions at the EC meeting in May 2010.

- We recognised that good geography can be taught in a variety of contexts and there were good examples of geography in cross-curricular contexts, where specialists were involved directly in teaching. However, there were also examples of poor practice where the approaches had not been carefully thought through or where non-specialists were teaching to weak plans. The group felt that the GA should gather case studies of good examples.
- The group felt it was very important that the GA, at the present time, should not be seen to promote a cross-curricular approach. This was because the new government policy on the curriculum is not yet clear, but it is likely that they will not follow the approach indicated in the last government's KS3 curriculum. The group noted a potential conflict for the new government – they desire to give schools freedom for curriculum flexibility, but what will they do if schools adopt curricula of which they do not approve?
- The group also discussed how ITT courses prepare students for cross curricular approaches in schools. There was a consensus that the funding for ITT training was specified for geography training and that should be the priority, although through school experiences and discussions during the courses trainees should be aware of the variety of curriculum models they might meet in schools.