

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Geographical Association, Sheffield

Date: 17 February 2011

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Geography Quality Mark Celebrates Fifth Birthday in Sheffield

Representatives from nine different schools across the UK (34 schoolchildren and 18 teachers) made a geographical journey to Sheffield on Wednesday 16 February to take part in a very special birthday celebration. They joined staff from the Sheffield-based Geographical Association, Sheffield Lord Mayor Alan Law and specialist teachers to celebrate five years of the Primary Geography Quality Mark award (PGQM).

Since its launch in 2006, 224 primary schools have achieved the prestigious PGQM award run by the Geographical Association. The award is given at three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. It is seen as *the* key strategy for raising the quality of geography in primary schools and provides teachers with a framework to make a real difference to their geography lessons. Schools who achieve the award are recognised for excellent, lively and innovative geography.

The birthday celebration included a number of exciting geography workshops and provided a chance for pupils, teachers and local celebrities to meet up to exchange stories, ideas and experiences. Two honorary achievement awards were presented on the day to Leighton Primary School, Crewe and Perton First School, Wolverhampton.

Wendy North, the Geographical Association project leader for the PGQM award, said:

The Geographical Association moderators have been thrilled with the quality of the learning and scale of the work achieved in our award schools. Many schools submitted inspiring examples of ways that geography can help young people to gain a fuller understanding of the complex and interdependent world in which we all live.

Headteacher David Jones of St George's (VC) CE Primary School, Wrotham, Kent (awarded PGQM in 2010) said:

On the whole the experience of applying for PGQM Bronze Award has been enjoyable and challenging. I hope to build upon what we have achieved this year to be ready to apply for the Silver and eventually the Gold level.

Ends

Notes to Editors

The event was held at The Workstation, Paternoster Row in Sheffield.

For more information about the Primary Geography Quality Mark visit www.geography.org.uk/pgqm

For further information contact:

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Caption for the photograph: Sheffield Lord Mayor Alan Law with children from schools awarded the prestigious Primary Geography Quality Mark award. More photographs are available upon request.

The Geographical Association

The Geographical Association (GA) is a subject association with a mission to further the teaching of geography and to communicate the value of learning geography for all. The GA was founded in 1893 and has around 6,000 memberships including teachers in primary and secondary schools and further education, academic geographers, universities and teacher educators and trainers. For more information visit www.geography.org.uk