

SGQM & Centre of Excellence Status



For all schools applying for the SGQM, aiming for Centre of Excellence status is a **free** additional option. As the two awards run concurrently you should apply for them both at the same time. You may also apply for CE status within three years of achieving the SGQM – please contact [Julie Beattie](#) for further information.

Schools achieving CE must commit to involve GA HQ in **at least one** event or activity that they have organised **each year**. They must also commit to providing support for other schools, following reasonable requests from the GA. The involvement with the GA may be through:

Provision of photos for GA use

Production of an article for Teaching Geography or GA Magazine

Agreement to present on some aspect of CE status at Conference

Invitation for GA staff to attend

Request for the GA to provide materials

SGQM: Possible routes to Centre of Excellence status

'Providing CPD opportunities locally or regionally disseminating quality approaches'

- Year 5 and/or Year 6 pupils visit the geography department to undertake a programme of activities that impact positively upon the pupils' geographical experience
- Participating in and/or organising a GA 'Worldwise' event
- Shared resources with other colleagues, perhaps via a website
- FOCUSED PROJECT: A primary-secondary staff jointly taught geography unit of work for primary pupils which might or might not relate directly to work in Y7
- LINK PROJECT: A primary-secondary staff joint taught geography unit which links topics BRIDGING PROJECT: A primary-secondary joint geography unit that would be begun in Y6 Term 3 and carried forward into Term 1 of Y7, perhaps incorporating homework during the summer holiday, providing a 'bridge' between primary and secondary schooling and geography (e.g. mapwork)
- CROSS-SUBJECT PROJECT: A Y6 project (possibly a bridging project) that involves geography and 1, 2 or 3 other subjects in a focused study linked to the local environment/area
- Joint primary-secondary fieldwork
- Secondary students teaching Year 5 or Year 6
- Organisation of a local geography competition
- Primary-secondary exchange geography teaching visits
- Planning and hosting a CPD event for primary and / or secondary colleagues
- Guiding another school through the Quality Mark process
- Leading a cluster of schools through the Quality Mark process
- Establishment of a school-based GA Branch
- Development of 'Ask a Geographer' type idea where secondary students answer questions from primary pupils
- Developing email links with schools in other areas / countries to compare experiences and share good practice
- Video-conferencing with a geographical theme
- Production of a regular Geography newsletter distributed to other colleagues
- Leading CPD sessions for Associate Teachers
- Fostering and maintaining links with HE Institutions

The Award would recognise ongoing links which have an impact upon the experiences of the pupils. Carefully chosen evidence could be in the form of testimonials from teachers or students, both offering some evaluative and qualitative perspective on the process.