



Dear Headteacher

Secondary Geography Quality Mark

I am delighted that your school has expressed an interest in applying for the Secondary Geography Quality Mark (SGQM). This exciting initiative forms part of an important strategy for developing and celebrating high quality geographical education.

The GA is committed to;

- Outstanding teaching and learning in geography
- Inspirational, transformative, ambitious leadership in geography
- An engaging and challenging geography curriculum

The SGQM is a key element to achieving this. It is the lead award for geography teachers and aims to both inspire and support teachers. The SGQM will;

- provide a rigorous framework and process for teachers to reflect individually and collectively on their professional practice and keep teaching under critical review,
- contribute to a body of excellent classroom practice,
- improve the quality of educational experience for all pupils through geography

Teachers are supported throughout the process with guidance, resources and access to a network of quality practitioners. The moderation process itself is rigorous and the feedback form offers possible areas for future development. The schools which have participated in the award are unanimous in their praise of a process which has helped them develop and celebrate the subject.

“We are excited to apply for the SGQM as it echoes our own philosophy of Secondary Geography teaching and it is a reward that we would value receiving from the GA” **Fiona Derbyshire, Kirkbie Kendal School, Cumbria**

“Through the SGQM process we were able to identify the areas of the curriculum that were not being exposed to best practice and take steps to put this right.” **Glenn Welch, St Gregory's RC Comprehensive, Tunbridge Wells**

“The most enjoyable aspect of the process was the ability to use pupils work as evidence, and informing them of this. Self worth is extremely important for successful learning to take place. Pupils who feel that their work is not only read, but valued so much by a professional that they are using it in their own practice, are able to take that feeling on to other areas of their academic and social lives.” **David McGrath, Oakfield School, Frome**

There is more key information about the SGQM available on our website including costs, guidance and a range of sample resources. You can access the SGQM registration documents by using this web address.

<http://www.geography.org.uk/cpdevents/qualitymarks/secondaryqualitymark/>

We look forward to working with your geography department in the coming months.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Kitchen
Secondary Curriculum Leader
