

Action Plan for Geography

The Action Plan for Geography is a two-year programme funded by the Department for Education and Skills. Its activities and resources are available for all primary and secondary teachers in England.

The goal of the Action Plan is:

'To provide everyone – opinion formers, policy makers, schools, parents and pupils – with a clear vision of geography as a relevant and powerful 21st century subject; and to equip teachers with the professional skills and support they need so that pupils enjoy and succeed in geography.'

This recognises the need for well trained, up-to-date and enthusiastic teachers who understand and can use geography to help young people become confident in their learning, informed about the world around them, and responsible, productive and active citizens.

Implementation is jointly and equally led by the Geographical Association (GA) and the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers) (RGS-IBG).

The **GA** has its roots in geography teaching.

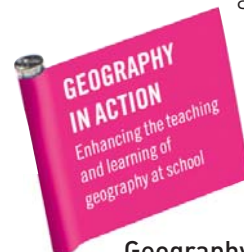
It engages all phases of the teaching community through meetings, professional journals, print and digital resources, and an Annual Conference and Exhibition. The GA's particular focus is on subject leadership and curriculum development in schools.

www.geography.org.uk

The **RGS-IBG** is the learned society and professional body for geography. Its education department supports teachers and students (mostly 11-19), with online resources, inservice training, advice and guidance, and through professional accreditation. www.rgs.org

Geography in Action

The Action Plan aims to inspire and support teachers in their task to inform, engage and enthuse young people with geography. Understanding our world has never been so important.



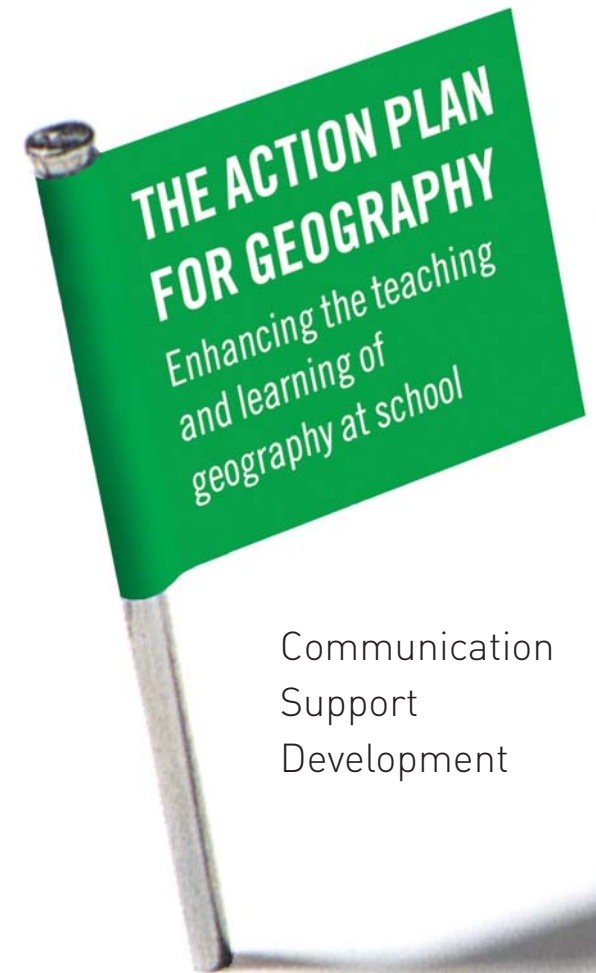
Geography is distinctive. It educates young people about:

- **Place** Where places are and why they are different – showing how social, economic and environmental forces combine to create distinctive and diverse localities
- **Connectedness** How physical and human environments are related and how human actions impact on the environment, so helping young people to understand the need for a sustainable future
- **Scale** Understanding different scales – from local to national to world wide – which is essential in understanding interdependence and global change
- **Process** Why and how the world's environments, societies and landscapes are changing – geography is dynamic
- **Skills** How to investigate the world for themselves – team work in the field, using maps, analysing data, problem solving, and using ICT – and an awareness of social and environmental responsibility

From September 2006 see www.geographyteachingtoday.org.uk
Until then updates will be on both www.geography.org.uk and www.rgs.org

Geography in Action

2006-2008



Communication
Support
Development

Communication

The communication strand will inform and advise people in all walks of life about geography. It will encourage stakeholders to be actively involved in the Action Plan, particularly teachers and pupils. It will enthuse and activate teachers with the relevance of geography to the education of 21st century citizens.

A new 'Geography Teaching Today' (GTT) website - all teachers will:

- Have a new 'one stop shop' that signposts the rich and varied existing support
- Be able to use and contribute to new support, guidance and resources
- Have an interactive forum for sharing nationally the various Action Plan activities

It will also co-ordinate and share the activities of 'local groups'.

A Geography Ambassadors programme will be developed to enthuse pupils. It will:

- Provide positive 'role models' – undergraduates and geography graduates in the workplace – that will bring the practice and university study of geography alive
- Enable pupils to experience and appreciate at first hand the excitement of geography and its relevance to 21st century life and employment
- Help to establish and embed the links between schools, universities and geographers in the wider world, to enrich learning



Support

The support strand will provide resources, guidance and training for teachers, targeted on primary and Key Stage 3, plus support in specific parts of the curriculum.

Inspirational geography resources for Key Stage 3

is an online bank of innovative resources; ready to use but also easily adaptable and with support for non-specialist teachers. Based on selected key topics, they include inspirational 'starters' by well-known geographers. Online help and face-to-face professional development will guide teachers to get the best out of the resources.

Fieldwork and local learning 'virtual centre' is an online resource to bring learning alive through fieldwork and knowledge of the local area. Top tips on how to use new technologies, (eg GIS), health and safety, themed fieldwork, sources of information and exemplar field activities, will be backed by face-to-face courses and field days. It will link with the Education Outside the Classroom Manifesto and aim to improve the breadth and quality of fieldwork.

Geography leadership CPD will offer face-to-face and online support – at primary and secondary levels – on planning and developing the curriculum. Participants will design relevant and enjoyable geography programmes that allow for local circumstances, and build in progression and personalised learning. The CPD packages will be for potential and existing subject leaders and encourage developments in ICT, citizenship, or sustainable development.



Development

The development strand will build capacity to secure geography for the longer term. It encourages subject specialism and promotes exciting curriculum development.

Curriculum development projects will:

- Help teachers make greater use of existing materials to improve pupil achievement and to promote leading edge practice
- Facilitate innovator teacher groups to identify and develop new approaches to teaching aspects of the curriculum linked mainly to the Pilot GCSE
- Interpret primary and secondary National Strategy materials for geography and build on existing materials

Recognising professional achievement will build professional capacity in two complementary ways:

- Primary and Secondary geography 'Quality Marks' (recognition for schools and departments); and
- Chartered Geographer status (professional accreditation for individual teachers)

Both programmes will be linked with Ofsted and Training and Development Agency frameworks.

A feasibility study will look at the possibility of offering joint membership of both subject bodies, in order to maximise the visibility and availability of these schemes.

