

Secondary Geography Quality Mark (SGQM) and the Global Learning Programme

The GLP encourages schools to consider working with a whole school quality mark or award: this can support schools' progress against the GLP whole school framework. Each quality mark or award will support different parts of the framework more or less well.

The table below shows how the Secondary Geography Quality Mark (SGQM) supports the [GLP Whole School Framework criteria](#) at either **early/ developing** or **developing/ embedded** levels.

This will help schools with the SGQM to join the GLP as a **Partner School**, and use the expertise already gained to benchmark strengths and areas for development when completing their **whole school audit**. It will also help any school decide if they wish to use the SGQM to develop priority areas of their **GLP action plans**. And for schools wishing to become **GLP Expert Centres**, gaining this quality mark also provides evidence of good practice and impact in certain aspects of global learning, without needing to identify significant additional evidence for accreditation.

Organisation: Geographical Association

Whole school quality mark/award: Secondary Geography Quality Mark (SGQM)

Background information

The Secondary Geography Quality Mark award promotes excellence in geography provision and standards. Achieving the award is recognition of quality and progress in leadership, curriculum development, learning and teaching in geography. The revised award has strengthened global learning and links to the Ofsted Framework in England.

Summary of the quality mark

To achieve the Secondary Geography Quality Mark, schools undertake a self-evaluation/audit process to review strengths and areas for development, and produce an action plan which includes targeting at least two areas for improvement. They submit a completed application form accompanied by a short portfolio of key supporting evidence. The award can be achieved at general SGQM and Centre of Excellence levels.

Support available to schools

Schools working towards the Secondary Geography Quality Mark can gain support and guidance from the dedicated Virtual Learning Environment, which also has a variety of exemplar resources to help audit geography in your school. Professional advisors are available via email/phone, and support visits to schools can be commissioned via the GA register of consultants.

The SGQM is available to GA members; registration fees to cover the costs of central support, administration and moderation are charged according to NOR. Once achieved, SGQM status lasts for three years.

Further information

Web link: <http://www.geography.org.uk/11-19/secondaryqualitymark/>

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Mapping the GLP Whole School Framework against the Secondary Geography Quality Mark				
Area	Criteria	Description		How the SGQM supports the GLP criteria
Pupil achievement	P1	Pupils develop their understanding of global knowledge themes through a range of subjects and topic areas	✓	The SGQM has a focus on improving pupils' knowledge and understanding of a range of geographical concepts, including their understanding of a globally interdependent world. This is linked to their improved attainment in geography
	P2	Pupils develop high quality learning skills through global learning, supporting their literacy, numeracy and communication	✓	The SCQM has a focus on pupils improving a range of learning skills including critical thinking, independence, enquiry and geographical questioning. This is linked to their improved attainment in geography
	P3	Pupils are better prepared for transition and work through global learning activities		
Teachers' practice	T1	Teachers are confident in their global knowledge, and use teaching approaches supporting pupils' skills and values development	✓✓	The SGQM focuses on the quality of teachers' geographical knowledge and ability to engage pupils with knowledge and understanding of the world. It also focuses on teachers' skills supporting development of skills around questioning and enquiry
	T2	Teachers are equipped to support active global citizenship by pupils in lessons and extra-curricular activities	✓	The SGQM supports a range of pedagogies linked to global citizenship
	T3	Teachers use effective cross-curricular planning skills to provide coherent global learning experiences		
Behaviour & relationships	B1	Global learning assists values development across the school community, supporting positive relationships		
	B2	Global learning supports positive attitudes towards diversity and cultural difference	✓	A focus in the SGQM on improving pupils' understanding of places and people will support the development of positive attitudes to diversity and cultural difference.
	B3	Pupil voice is developed across the school through global learning activities		
Leadership & the community	L1	School leaders use effective planning to embed a school vision preparing pupils for a globally interdependent world	✓	Although not related to school leaders, there is a strong focus in the SGQM on developing a strong ethos for the geography department, and the activities it supports will enhance the wider school ethos
	L2	Global learning helps create a rich and rewarding professional development programme		
	L3	Global learning supports better engagement with parents, community groups and other organisations locally, nationally and globally.	✓	There is a focus in the SGQM on forging links with external agencies and the global community, and supporting pupils to engage in enrichment activities.

Developing/ embedded	Very good relationship: achieving the SGQM would support a school being 'developing' or 'embedded' against that GLP criterion
Early/ developing	Good relationship: achieving the SGQM would support a school being 'early' or 'developing' against that GLP criterion