

## PGQM Moderation Feedback: September 2023

School: **The Beacon CE Primary**

Moderator(s): **Emily Da Silva and the National Moderation Team**

The school has been awarded: **Gold**

### Geography: notable aspects and strengths

Thank you for your submission for the Primary Geography Quality Mark. It is clear from your application that Geography is deeply embedded within your school and that Annabel leads Geography with a clear vision for the school, and is supported by SLT in this vision! We admire the efforts your team has made to do this and wish you continued success.

What stood out in your application is the breadth of opportunity that children have to take part in Geography. Your application indicates that your pupils start with limited cultural experiences and it is clear that The Beacon makes it part of your mission to ensure your children have a wide range of experiences before they leave your care. There are many interesting residential trips, even from a young age in KS1, and plenty of opportunity for children to 'Think like a Geographer' – as clearly noted on your planning. Making it a distinct part of the plans keeps this in the forefront of teacher's minds, which no doubt supports the adults delivering the lessons as much as it supports the children in their learning. The 'Chatty Challenges' give pupils even more chance to think like a geographer, providing an in-the-moment opportunity to secure their knowledge and understanding of a topic. One question that came up is do the children have this chat monitored or facilitated in any way, so that, if misconceptions arose, they could be corrected on the spot? Flashback Fridays are a brilliant way to revisit, embed and consolidate past learning. It is very nice to revisit a range of time periods (e.g. last week, last month, earlier in the year). This is a discrete way to ensure recall and gives children a chance to apply their knowledge and skills in a meaningful way.

Your participation in the Global Scholars program allows your pupils to explore interconnectedness and similarities and differences between communities, cultures and countries. Equally important, you look at local issues and address these, giving the children the chance to develop their critical thinking skills, as noted in your water security unit. It is clear that Pupil Voice is active, your Humanities Pupil Leadership Team is prominent in school and that children enjoy taking part in a range of activities planned for them such as your geography day. Debate Club is an excellent way to embed critical thinking skills and allows children to develop their perspectives from someone else's point of view. 'Thinking Thursdays' is another initiative you have implemented that give children an opportunity to view critical issues from many perspectives.

Geography makes a strong impact at The Beacon. The presentation of the learning is clear, and the high-quality work demonstrates high expectations. The learning environment is beautiful – displays double as working walls and refer to prior learning and reference meaningful cross-curricular links. SEND pupils are well catered for and it's clear your CPD ensures staff know how to support SEND pupils across all areas of the curriculum, including geography. Well done, that is brilliant to see in practice.