

## The Geographical Association and the North West Learning Partnership

*100% of participants attending the training over the last two years have stated that the sessions provided were excellent with lots of useful information. Session feedback has highlighted that 'lots of practical ideas' have been provided as well as how to embed the learning of geographical skills in a wider context. They feel in a much better position to scrutinise the geography curriculum within their own settings to ensure progression and have been excited to disseminate key messages to other staff once receiving the PD and explore opportunities to put the ideas into practice.*

*Jon and the team are extremely efficient, approachable and have a sound understanding of what educators want from high quality professional development. I would not hesitate in continuing to work with the Geographical Association in the future. A truly professional organisation.*

Lisa Bradshaw- Director of the NWLP

**Aim and scope:** The GA have worked with the North West Learning Partnership (NWLP) for the past two years delivering bespoke professional development to a range of geography leads and senior staff within schools across the NW Region. The overarching objective of the sessions is to improve disciplinary knowledge, skills and understanding of the geography subject leads, to cascade high quality practice down to staff and therefore impact student engagement, enjoyment and achievement in geography.

**Developing Geography subject leaders:** There has been a change to the educational landscape over the past few years, in part due to Ofsted's 2019 Education Inspection Framework, where the value of foundation subjects has been 'rediscovered'. The cornerstone to raising the quality of geography taught in classrooms is for primary school teachers to have an understanding of the subject, the rationale for teaching what they teach and how that learning builds across the age phase and beyond. The professional development sessions that the GA and NWLP have facilitated have aimed to provide subject leaders with the knowledge and understanding to be able to plan an ambitious and coherent geography curriculum that best aligns with the unique setting and community of their individual school. The training has also provided a range of practical ideas and pedagogical approaches to enable subject leaders to re-engage and re-energise their staff in the subject. Importantly there is also the opportunity for these leaders to consider how to manage change and through adopting a philosophy of voice, choice and action create a sense of authentic agency for staff and pupils alike.