

THE PRIMARY GEOGRAPHY

INTERVIEW

THE *PRIMARY GEOGRAPHY* EDITORIAL BOARD

Throughout our 30th year you have heard from the editors of *PG*'s past; here the Editorial Board that is responsible for its present and future offer their collective thoughts.

Thirty years is a remarkable achievement for any specialist journal, but for *Primary Geography* (*PG*) to achieve this milestone is all the more remarkable given the intense pressures and frequent changes that primary education has endured, and the fragile position geography has held in the primary curriculum, during that time. It is a testament to the tenacity and enthusiasm of the editors, editorial board members, contributors and the GA that their desire to lead, share and encourage the teaching of primary geography has never dimmed.

Never has it been more important to study geography and give young children the opportunity to do so. This is geography's moment as we see children grapple with issues of climate change, a plastic world, the extinction of species and the arrival of the Anthropocene, because '...sitting in classrooms across the world are the people who will bring about world peace, manage global economies, fight disease, invent new technologies, campaign for community rights, or unite cultures' (Whittle, 2016).

It has been a privilege and a joy to chair the Editorial Board since 2009. We share a deep commitment to offering practical, soundly researched activities to our readers in order to drive primary geography forward based on a firm understanding of the issues and needs of learning and teaching. I would like to thank all those involved in producing this unique international journal; the incredibly creative board members who always inspire with their ability to 'think outside the box'; our wonderfully supportive Senior Production Editor, Anna Grandfield, who seems to make the impossible possible; the GA for its continuing support; and to our readers for their encouragement and thoughtful comments on the work we undertake. You all make creating this inspiring journal a true labour of love.



What are the values that the Board extols through *PG*?

The values that we hold dear are based around respect. Respect for people and places, now and in the future, near and far. Children matter, and helping children to discover the world is vital, exciting, and an essential part of learning. Learning about the world is a right that all children should share and we aim to work hard in a critically reflective, inclusive and professional manner to provide such opportunities.

Why is *PG* important in the primary school?

We believe that geography sits at the heart of any curriculum and the *Primary Geography* journal is an important resource for teaching and learning. The activities and ideas in the journal are created by a broad range of teachers, teacher educators, students and others, and develop from, and in turn inspire, best practice. *Primary Geography* is the only journal of its kind in the world and aims to inform, guide, support, lead, learn and advise. It showcases and provides the opportunity for professional and creative development.

How do you see *PG* in future?

Geography is a vibrant, constantly shifting and developing subject and the *Primary Geography* journal will continue to reflect

and develop such dynamism. It will always support the development of geography in the future as a core area of any curriculum. The journal will develop as an essential hub for the development and sharing of ideas on an international stage to adapt and thrive in the future world, leading by example and championing the skills and creativity of teachers around the globe.

What message would you give to future primary geography pupils and teachers?

Geography is – and always will be – an essential element of any person's learning journey and we are here to learn from you and, in turn, to support you through the creation and sharing of new ideas and ways of thinking. Developing a life-long love for your world, with respect and responsibility, can only be improved through education: through understanding the patterns and processes, shapes and dynamics that form and enact upon this amazing planet. Take time to love our world; breathe it in, dwell, pause and notice. Ask questions, find out and immerse yourself in the world around you, be that through jumping into puddles or climbing mountains, cleaning beaches or designing new settlements. Create new ways of learning and inspire yourselves and others throughout your lives.

We all need to learn to love and look after our wonderful world.

Reference

Whittle, J. (2016) 'Editorial', *Primary Geography*, 90, pp. 4.

WEB RESOURCES

Meet the members of the *PG* Editorial Board: www.geography.org.uk

Steve Rawlinson is Chair of the *Primary Geography* Editorial Board and former GA President (2015–16).