

Free maps 2008

The 2008 free maps scheme for Year 7 pupils closed on 12 December, and again it has proved to be as popular as ever.

This year 6 965 schools placed their order requesting in total 683 392 maps for their Year 7 pupils. This total includes special schools, of which 50% ordered.

Wales again topped the charts, with **98%** of local authority (LA) schools placing an order, a fantastic response again this year. Well done Wales! English LA schools were in second place, with **92%**, with Scotland – again – following along, with **89%**. These figures take into account those schools that have informed us that they were not ordering this year for various reasons, for example, no Year 7 pupils this year or they still have maps from last year.

This latter reason does give me some concerns as the idea behind the scheme is to give the maps to the children for them to keep, not for the school to hoard. In fact those schools that have retained maps are in breach of the contract they agreed when they placed an order; so if your school still has a stockpile of maps, for whatever reason, please make sure these are given out to the children as soon as possible.

From the many letters and comments we have received from teachers and children, which are much appreciated, it is obvious that this scheme is having a beneficial effect on the map-reading skills and understanding of maps in schools.



The 5 millionth map

This year saw the 5 millionth map under this scheme delivered to the John Cabot Academy in Bristol, to which we also presented a framed 1:25 000 scale OS Explorer Map centred on the school and a framed triptych of the school consisting of an aerial photo, a historical map and an OS MasterMap® extract.

The event was also celebrated at Ordnance Survey head office, where all the staff that had been involved in the scheme since it started in 2002 were invited to a celebration event. Here Ralph Tabberer, the then Director General of Schools, and Jeff Stanfield, Inspector and Advisor for Hampshire, spoke on the success of the scheme from their perspective.



The scheme has great support from MPs throughout Great Britain, and many of them visit the schools in their constituencies to hand out the maps when they arrive.

Free maps 2009 scheme

The 2009 scheme will open in mid-August for this year's intake of Primary 7 pupils in Scotland, and in September for English and Welsh schools' Year 7 pupils. Look out for your invitation to order letter containing your new user name and password.

Further details on the scheme can be found at www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/freemapsfor11yearolds

FREE MAPS FOR 11-YEAR-OLDS