

# GIS for Schools

ESRI (UK) has started 'GIS for Schools', offering improved access to GIS technology to help teachers meet curriculum requirements and make lessons more engaging. Designed to help students learn more effectively, the CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) initiative has been designed to overcome the barriers to teachers using GIS in schools. So far 35 schools have signed up to the new scheme.

Already used in a number of schools around the UK, GIS became part of the national curriculum for Geography at GCSE and A-level in 2008 and its uptake in schools is expected to rise. Most teachers do not have time or budget to become trained GIS experts and need to apply new technologies mandated by the curriculum as easily as possible. ESRI (UK)'s new programme makes GIS straightforward to use through online lesson plans and short video tutorials, mapped directly to the curriculum. Containing all necessary software, maps, data, lesson plans and online tutorials for an annual cost of GBP250, GIS for Schools costs less than half the normal price for the ESRI software alone.

Historically, GIS has not been easily accessible to teachers, with many software companies just offering standard software at discounted prices. ESRI (UK)'s GIS for Schools not only offers vastly discounted software, but includes the necessary resources wrapped around it, so teachers can take advantage of its benefits quickly and easily. GIS in the classroom can be used in a variety of ways from plotting information sources on a map, to examining population migration or urban redevelopment.

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<https://www.gim-international.com/content/news/gis-for-schools>

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