



Tips for planning your Connecting Classrooms school partnership

This guidance sheet aims to support schools to plan their **Connecting Classrooms** school partnership project, ideally with their overseas partner face-to-face, during a reciprocal visit.

Connecting Classrooms, funded by the British Council and the Department for International Development, is designed to help young people learn about global issues and become responsible global citizens, as well as giving them the skills they need to work in a global economy.

Activity falls under three categories:

- 🌐 **Increasing Global Citizenship:** Collaborative curriculum projects enabling teaching and learning in key global themes, skills and outlooks.
- 🌐 **Enriching Education Practice:** Improving teaching practice through international collaboration.
- 🌐 **Building an Equitable and Sustainable Partnership:** The basis for your collaboration: mutually beneficial, jointly planned and planned for the long-term.

To be successful in funding applications, partnerships need to demonstrate progression in all three categories. This progression is judged on information given in two sections:

the first section detailing

'Where we are now'

and the second section describing

'Where we want to be in one year?'

For each section a partnership will be judged to be at one of the following stages:

Preparing for the partnership

Developing the partnership

Embedding the partnership

Expanding the partnership

So, for example, a partnership successful in securing funding could be:

- 🌐 At the Developing stage in **Increasing Global Citizenship** because they are carrying out joint curriculum activity about Rights and Responsibilities in both school settings and planning to be at the Embedding stage by planning to take action on Rights and Responsibilities in both school communities.
- 🌐 At the Developing stage in **Building an Equitable and Sustainable Partnership** because they have a partnership agreement and have set in place the basis for collaboration and planning to be at the Embedding stage by including work in yearly plans, increasing to whole school involvement and have in place a strategy to involve the community.

Increasing Global Citizenship

Teachers can increase global citizenship by:

- 🌐 Introducing global themes to the curriculum, allowing young people to make the links between their local context and the rest of the world. E.g Food in the shops.
- 🌐 Helping young people to explore and reflect on these contexts and to appreciate similarities and differences between cultures
- 🌐 Setting up collaborative curriculum projects between the pupils in both partner schools, to help the young people work together and share ideas.
- 🌐 Encouraging pupils to play an active role in the global economy and motivating them to tackle shared issues, e.g Fairtrade projects.
- 🌐 Connecting Classrooms has developed sets of global themes, global skills and global outlooks to guide partnership planning. It is recommended that you plan to cover 3 or 4 of the following:

Global Themes

- 🌐 Conflict and Peace
- 🌐 Sustainable Living
- 🌐 Rights and Responsibilities
- 🌐 Fairness and Equity
- 🌐 Identity and Belonging.

Global Skills

- 🌐 Self-awareness
- 🌐 Conflict Resolution
- 🌐 Empathy
- 🌐 Creative Thinking
- 🌐 Critical Thinking
- 🌐 Collaboration
- 🌐 Communicating
- 🌐 Taking Action.

Global Outlooks

- 🌐 Positive Sense of Identity
- 🌐 Sense of Interdependence
- 🌐 Open to New Ideas
- 🌐 Desire to make a Difference
- 🌐 Commitment to Rights and Responsibilities
- 🌐 Commitment to Justice
- 🌐 Commitment to Peace
- 🌐 Commitment to Sustainability

Ideas for project titles for the 'getting to know you' stage:

- Outside my window
- It's good to be me.
- Knowing me, knowing you.
- All about us.
- Who am I? Who are we?
- Two way introductions
- Pleased to meet you.

Ideas for project titles for more in-depth global work:

- Our Rights and Responsibilities
- Water Usage Here, There and Everywhere
- Exploring our future Aspirations
- Our Global Footprints
- Food Glorious Food
- Justice in Our Communities
- Reducing, Reusing and Recycling in Our Schools
- From Slave Trade to Fair Trade.

Enriching Education Practice

International school partnerships provide a valuable opportunity for schools to work together to enrich education practice and improve education outcomes for young people. This category is mainly to do with actions taken by the teacher which will in turn lead to improved outcomes in learning by the pupils.

To develop this strand of collaborative projects Connecting Classrooms has identified a set of common education areas that teachers from both schools in the partnership can share. It is recommended you plan to cover one or more of the following:

- **Core skills**
Young people's achievement in language, numeracy and ICT.
- **Teaching styles**
The methods you use to teach the young people.
- **Assessment**
How you measure young people's progress.
- **Classroom and behaviour management**
How you guide young people's conduct.
- **Inclusion**
Catering for additional learning, physical and emotional needs.
- **Promoting well-being**
Encouraging young people to live healthily.

Building an Equitable and Sustainable Partnership

Successful partnerships should benefit all schools equally and be sustainable in the future. In order to meet these two aims it is recommended that you:

- Make long-term shared plans to commit time and resources to the partnership.
- Set up a partnership committee in each school.
- Make sure the partner schools contribute equally.
- Involve more educators and young people as the partnership progresses
- Involve people from the wider community.

Successful funding bids will describe what has been done so far to make the partnership equitable and sustainable and what is planned for the coming year to improve this aspect.

Where you can find additional help and guidance.

The British Council Schools Online website gives you access to a variety of information on:

Connecting Classrooms, International School Award and Professional development

<http://schoolsonline.britishcouncil>

The website also gives case studies of projects that have worked well.

Iain Baird from World Class Citizens Ltd can be contacted at

worldclasscitizens@gmail.com or 07808150607

The World Class Citizens Ltd website also gives information on the various courses and resources that are available to schools.

www.worldclasscitizens.co.uk



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