

A partnership agreement

A partnership agreement is a working document that helps you and your partner school:

- agree a shared vision for working together
- establish mutually agreed educational goals
- set out the basis on which you are going to work together
- ensure that both partners are clear about and in agreement about what is to be achieved
- identify areas of potential curricular collaboration
- evaluate the effectiveness of the partnership
- raise issues of accountability and responsibility
- ensure the participation of several staff in each school
- provide a firm foundation for your partnership that will survive changes in personnel and other circumstances.

See additional document 'Partnership Agreement Checklist' from Global School Partnerships

A partnership agreement will provide a firm foundation for your partnership and should:

- start small and set realistic aims
- build on the partnership year by year
- involve the active participation of both partner schools, each contributing and benefiting equally
- state how each of the partner schools will contribute to the development of the partnership and activities.

What should be included in a partnership agreement?

The document should be agreed formally by the partner schools, signed by head teachers (and governors) and dated. Here is a list of key points that a first partnership agreement should cover:

- The aims of the partnership - you might start with a few classroom projects, but as these develop there could be initiatives that involve the whole school and additional partners. Do both schools have the same aims in mind?
- The objectives you wish to achieve - it is helpful to identify specific opportunities for staff development and particular groups of pupils that may benefit. If you can, mention curriculum areas, year groups and name the teachers that will collaborate. You may decide to work towards participation in a particular programme or to apply for funding.
- Support for the partnership - there may be value in involving community groups, local businesses and organisations in the process to raise your partnership's profile and enlist support.