

International partnerships

Diocesan rationale

Bishop Paul is committed to the diocese making relational partnerships with Christians around the world. This is part of the diocesan commitment to world mission. Church schools are being encouraged to make partnerships across the world and some are choosing to do this through the diocesan partnerships – currently Natal, South Africa – Burundi – Israel/Palestine.

The 3 strands of the diocesan mission statement are central to our understanding of the significance of supporting our schools in developing these partnerships.

The 3 strands are - Living Worship – Growing Disciples – Seeking Justice

Through international school partnerships children in our schools can:

be encouraged to share in, and experience living worship as it connects them through images, songs, prayers and stories with **Living Worship** across the world

grow as Christian **disciples** and citizens of the world, being inspired by the teachings of Jesus

challenge and confront the injustices in the world and so seek to bring about **justice** and fairness for all the worlds people

If the school wishes to make an international partnership with a school through the diocese it is suggested that the following should be considered:

Before the partnership begins;

Meet with the DSA with responsibility for international partnerships. During this meeting discussions will focus around the following:

- The schools motivation for wanting an international partnership
- The aims of the partnership for the Diocesan school
- How the school understands 'partnership' in this context
- The member of staff to be responsible for developing the partnership
- How the partnership is to be worked out across the school – through worship, RE, other curricular areas
- The vision of how the partnership might develop

Following this visit the DSA will make every effort to find a partner school in either Burundi or Israel/Palestine (currently these are the international partnerships the diocese is actively pursuing to develop. If others develop over time, then the diocese will encourage church schools to make partnerships with those countries)

More information that may be helpful in setting up an international partnership can be found in the following documents:

- A partnership agreement
- Partnership agreement checklist
- Suggested activities to get the partnership off the ground
- A Guide to International school partnerships
- Additional materials e.g. themes and resources for school worship will be made available in due course

All these documents are available to download from the diocesan website

The DSA will explore every possibility for the schools who want a partner school to obtain one.

In the autumn of 2012 Jane Lewis will visit every school that has expressed interest in a partnership school to lead an act of worship on her visit to Burundi and explore the realities of establishing a partnership with Burundi.

If schools are interested in a partnership with a school in Israel/Palestine if may be possible to arrange for a Diocesan representative to come to school to help establish a partnership.