

Suggested activities to get the partnership off the ground

Details of these classroom activities can be found on the British Councils 'Schools on Line' website. This is an excellent resource with detailed lesson plans and further resources to support the activity in the classroom.

www.schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org/templateprojects

From our window - The view from our window is a gentle way to explore similarities and differences between schools. It is a good introductory activity. Different media can turn this into a very interesting project and you can take part any time. It might be a good way to introduce your school to your partner school.



Fiesta - Choose two dates during the year to exchange festivals to help each other celebrate an unfamiliar festival.

For example Pancake Day and Ramadan are both about fasting - and a special day on which you can have a feast.

A Day in the life - Students produce and present a PowerPoint presentation, scrapbook, cartoon or video montage of a typical day in the life of one or more of the students. The format of the presentation would obviously depend on the capabilities of the partner school to interpret the media used. E.g. no point producing powerpoints if the school does not have adequate IT facilities.

Culture in a box - Schools will exchange by parcel post the 'culture boxes' containing ten items. By choosing the items to put in, they will learn about 'how others see us'. By explaining their choices they will try to tell their partner school 'how we see ourselves'.

Shared learning in literacy - Partner teachers agree on a resource to study together - a poem, a story book, a novel, a Shakespeare play etc. It is curriculum-linked, and may be done at slightly different times in each school. An ideal and very flexible project. This of course is subject to the book/poem etc being available in the language of the partner school.



- The following might well be the outcomes of fundraising for your partner school or another project in that part of the world.
- The beneficiaries are seen as real people with dignity and due respect. As you learn about the children/ people in that country you can see beyond their need or predicament.
- Hearing from the beneficiaries, or people from their country, you can take their views and perspectives into account as much as possible.
- A school partnership enables you to build understanding and relationship, rather than simply responding to an immediate need and then moving on.
- Along with the fundraising activity you can learn about the root causes of the situation that leads to the need to fundraise.
- It gives the opportunity to consider the effects of your lifestyle on global issues. This might be the suppliers from whom you buy as a school, where school families buy their groceries etc
- The children can feel a sense of balance between achievement that their fundraising has made a real difference to people's lives, whilst understanding its limitations in terms of the context in which people live.

Recipe for fantastic fundraising

Ingredients

Buckets of humility

A generous heap of respect

A sensible proportion of perspective

A good-sized sense of solidarity

Mix in a generous dish. Add a good pinch of pride and satisfaction in your achievement, but stir briskly to avoid the mixture curdling to smugness or paternalism. Best enjoyed sandwiched between understanding of root causes and resolution to adjust your own lifestyle in an appropriate way. Pour over a sauce of fun and enjoy in moderation as part of a healthy and balanced diet.

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