



# The Link Schools Programme

---

The Link Schools Programme, which is run by the charity Link Community Development (LCD), facilitates mutually beneficial partnerships between schools in the North and South by providing ongoing and practical support for schools on both sides of the link.

The Link Schools Programme is an important part of Link Community Development's education development work in the South and gives teachers and schools in Scotland and Africa the opportunity to engage with each other in this context.

The programme which has been running for **9 years and includes over 800 schools in the UK, South Africa, Ghana, Uganda, Ethiopia and Malawi**, is founded on an in-depth knowledge of the needs of schools in both the North and the South and is designed so that schools at both ends of the link can develop sustainable links and benefit, in accordance with their own agendas and educational needs.

## What are the benefits for a Scottish school?

Our work aims to complement and support local and national education priorities. Linking with a school in Africa is an ideal way to meet the Government's objectives to ensure a wider understanding of development issues. The Scottish Government's 'A Curriculum for Excellence' emphasises the importance of global citizenship teaching and having a link with an African school meets these requirements and makes learning direct, meaningful and relevant by providing opportunities to:

- Integrate **global citizenship** into all areas of the curriculum and broaden pupils' awareness of global issues;
- **Exchange resources** between pupils and teachers to enhance all curriculum areas and enrich learning;
- **Challenge stereotypical** beliefs and prejudices;
- Involve the **whole community** (pupils, teachers, parents, school council, PTA) in the link;
- Stimulate **ideas and discussions** about global issues;
- Offer a range of **professional development opportunities** to teachers;
- Embed the **global dimension** in all school policies.

*"The link contributes positively to the school ethos of inclusion, care, justice and equality and developing global friendships. Additionally it links well to many class topics including water conservation, rainforests, deforestation and farming". Elaine Adamson, Depute Headteacher, Killermont Primary School, East Dunbartonshire.*

## What are the benefits for an African school?

By being part of the Link Schools Programme, African schools are involved in a variety of training and capacity building programmes run by Link Community Development. Projects typically last for three to five years and during this time all schools are given comprehensive support including:

- Training and support for teachers and headteachers
- Support for school managers and governors in school development planning

---

LINK SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

**Link Community Development**

**Thorn House, 5 Rose Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PR, Scotland**

**Tel: 0131 243 2685 Email: [scotland@lcd.org.uk](mailto:scotland@lcd.org.uk) Website: [www.lcdinternational.org](http://www.lcdinternational.org)**

- Encouragement for schools to involve their local communities in the link
- Annual grants to support needs identified by the school
- Support from LCD staff for the link, and provision of resources to enable the school to take part in school linking

*'The link is helping very much, we have shared information about handling pupils and teaching strategies.'* Violet Lumbe, Headteacher, Dedza LEA Primary School, Malawi

### **What support do you receive from Link Community Development?**

- Colour profile of your Link School at the outset
- Link Schools Pack on CD containing guidance on starting and maintaining a link, resources on Global Citizenship and lots of supportive information
- Termly newsletters with ideas for communicating with your partners and curriculum ideas
- On-going support, help and advice for both partners – via phone and email
- Annual feedback about your Link School
- Support for drawing up partnership agreements and setting aims and objectives of your partnership
- Facilitated exchange of materials and correspondence termly
- Access to our network of linked schools throughout the country
- School events and workshops
- Support for reciprocal visits and special projects
- A relationship with and information from an international development organisation

The annual fee for the Link Schools Programme is £500, with lower rates available for smaller schools if required. As it the cost to Link Community Development of running the programme is much higher, it would help us if you agree to pay the full fee.

In return for the annual fee, LCD will ensure that both schools receive a high quality support service and that the Southern school can benefit from access to annual grants and training programmes.

### **Are there any other organisations in Scotland who offer the same support?**

No and evidence suggests that without help and support on the ground in the partner school country, school partnerships are difficult to sustain and make successful, so please do take advantage of the support and services offered to you by Link Community Development.

**[www.lcdinternational.org](http://www.lcdinternational.org) for more information**