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GUIDE TO SETTING UP PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN UK AND TYUME VALLEY SCHOOLS

Developing links between schools in Tyume Valley and the UK can bring lasting benefits for staff and learners in both countries. This leaflet describes school partnerships and how to set them up; identifies further sources of information and help; and lists the primary and secondary schools in Tyume Valley currently seeking UK school partners. There is a lot of support available to schools wishing to explore these opportunities (see **Sources of Help and Support** below).

UNDERPINNING PRINCIPLES OF SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

- School partnerships should focus on collaborative projects which support the curriculum in both schools (see **Suggested Partnership Activities**).
- The partnership should enable young people and educators to build awareness of global issues (see **Suggested Partnership Activities**).
- Learners will share information about their local contexts with their partner school.
- Educators/teachers will share information about their educational practices and identify priority areas for improvement.
- The partnership will be equitable and aim to meet the identified needs of both partner schools.
- Partnerships are focussed on pupil learning and not on fund-raising activities by one school on behalf of another.

SETTING UP A SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

- Partnerships go through a series of stages as they develop.
 - Initial contact
 - Agreeing means and regularity of contact
 - Identifying mutual curriculum topics that fit with Global Education
 - Making a formal agreement
 - Organising possible staff exchanges
- A school in Tyume Valley wishes to form a partnership and informs TVS. It identifies what it seeks to gain from its link.
- Tyume Valley Schools helps to identify a suitable UK partner school.

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- Partnership Co-ordinators are identified by the Headteacher/Principal in each partner school.
- Once in contact with each other, schools jointly identify their priorities for the partnership and agree the educational outcomes they seek to achieve.
- Regular methods of communication between each school are agreed eg texting by mobile phone, Email or Skype.
- Partner schools together develop a long term plan and timetable for their partnership.
- The international partnership becomes part of each school's Development Plan.
- Partner schools run activities which introduce global themes to their pupils (see ***Suggested Partnership Activities***).
- Schools mutually develop a partnership policy to guide their work and formalize this in a Partnership Agreement that is agreed and signed by each school.
- One school in the partnership agrees to take responsibility for applying for any grants to support reciprocal teacher exchanges for practicing classroom teachers (see ***Teacher Exchanges*** below).
- Partner schools register on the British Council website (so that other prospective partner schools can learn from their experiences):
<https://schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org/partner-school>.

Don't let setbacks put you off! Often there are problems such as staff changes, where a lead teacher moves to another school. For more advice and support see ***Sources of Help and Support*** below.

FURTHER HINTS FOR STARTING OUT

Once your school has decided to work towards a partnership with a Tyume Valley school, it's important that: all staff are aware and supportive of the initiative; the partnership is integrated into your school's improvement/development plan; there is more than one named member of staff leading the activity; and the partnership supports your school's curriculum priorities.

- It's helpful when starting out to link with another local school that already has an overseas partnership. They will have useful experience and advice around practicalities and know what has worked and what hasn't. Perhaps invite a teacher with experience of linking to a staff meeting? TVS can also provide a speaker.
- Involve governors and inform parents of your plans.
- Keep the focus of the partnership on learning, not providing resources for the Tyume Valley school. (It may be appropriate for a parent or local community group to take on any fundraising activities at a later date.)
- If you decide to contact any of the schools in Tyume Valley (see below), please let TVS know so that we can support the process.
- Create a plan of action: consider applying for a British Council Reciprocal Visit Grant or working towards the International School Award.

TEACHER EXCHANGES

Staff exchanges provide opportunities to strengthen professional relationships and to experience teaching and learning practices, opportunities and everyday challenges in the partner school. The expectation is that exchanges take place between practicing teacher rather than headteachers or principals, unless they have a significant teaching role in their schools.

BEFORE AN EXCHANGE VISIT:

- Exchange draft visit plans and objectives for comment and approval
- Teachers should familiarise themselves with background information about their partner's school, country, culture and education system
- Teachers should be aware of and agree about how costs (internal travel, accommodation, meals etc.) will be covered during visit. The Partnership Co-ordinators in each school need to ensure this is done
- Accommodation for visiting teachers needs to be arranged at a local hotel or with school staff.
- Hosting teachers need to be aware of dietary or religious requirements, health issues of visitors.
- Passports, visas, travel insurance etc. need to be arranged in good time.

DURING THE VISIT:

- Allow opportunities for visitor to be immersed fully in life of the school.
- Involve Governors, parents and community in the visit through assemblies and a possible social event.
- Give visitor an opportunity to share information about their school.
- Involve visitors in professional development or training opportunities.
- Evaluate achievements of the partnership to date.
- Review the partnership agreement and any challenges that have arisen.
- Together plan future work and identify the materials/resources that will be needed.
- Agree how the future joint work will be evaluated.
- Work jointly on any joint grant application for funding and arrangements for reporting back to funders.
- Take photos, videos, make recordings, collect artefacts and resources from the visit. Involve learners in what to include.
- Celebrate the visit with local press, radio or TV.
- Keep a daily diary of your visit.

AFTER THE VISIT:

- Write up observations and suggestions for the future
- Note down what you've learned
- Note what you want to know more about.
- Follow up agreed action points

- Prepare report for colleagues, governors, parents, community groups through meetings and assemblies.

SUGGESTED PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES

UNDERPINNING THEMES

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

- Social justice and equity
- Diversity
- Globalisation and Interdependence
- Sustainable development
- Peace and conflict

SKILLS

- Critical thinking
- Ability to argue effectively
- Ability to challenge injustices and inequalities
- Respect for people and things
- Co-operation and conflict resolution

VALUES AND ATTITUDES

- Sense of identity and self-esteem
- Empathy
- Commitment to social justice and equity
- Value and respect for diversity
- Concern for the environment and commitment to sustainable development
- Belief that people can make a difference

For example, learning about the end of Apartheid would cover a number of these themes.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

- At the start of the partnership link, each school produces a poster on what they know about the partners' region, village or country. Then, after researching their partner's country etc. they produce a second poster. This allows for discussion on stereotypes and realities of initial perceptions.
- Introductory letter or email exchange using school (not personal) addresses. Teachers identify buddy partners for their respective learners.

- Pupils produce a PowerPoint presentation introducing themselves and their school to each other; these are then exchanged. This can be on a flash drive or CD if internet link is weak.
- Pupils produce and exchange a weekly diary with illustrations.
- A whole class can produce a hand book about their school and its locality.
- Schools exchange a dozen pictures of their school /locality. Partners then annotate each picture asking key questions. The first school then writes answers and returns these to the school generating the questions. This can be done either by email or letter.
- Mapping skills - pupils plot or draw their journey to school.
- Both schools log the weather locally and each week send a summary to each other .
- Pupils produce a simple Xhosa- English phrasebook (with illustrations where necessary).
- Each partner school produces a cook book of basic local recipes.
- Bi-lingual story exchange: learners create simple stories that can be shared with younger children in both English and Xhosa.
- Partners produce a Guide Book to their own area and exchange them.
- Projects can be developed that link themes from the curriculum of each school, such as: water and the water cycle; maths problem solving.

SOURCES OF HELP AND SUPPORT



The British Council is the main source of support with school partnerships: <https://schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org/connectingclassrooms-learning>. Contact schools@britishcouncil.org to see what other partnerships are available.



Further ideas and help are also available from the UK network of Development Education Centres: <http://globalclassrooms.org.uk>

All the Tyume Valley schools interested in partnership with a UK school are registered on the [British Council Connecting Classrooms website](#) and with the [Development Education Centre network](#).



Oxfam Education offers a huge range of ideas, resources and support for developing global learning in the classroom and the whole school. All of the resources here support Education for Global Citizenship – education that helps pupils understand their world and make a positive difference in it: <http://www.oxfam.org.uk/education>.



TVS will support the schools in Tyume Valley that are seeking UK partner schools. For further help and information, contact Jim Lewis headlewis2001@yahoo.co.uk; Tel: 0114 2509174. TVS also has a volunteer Development Worker based in Tyume Valley, who works closely with the Valley Schools.

- The TVS Development Worker will guide Tyume Valley schools wishing to form a school partnership through the completion of any documentation. TVS will support the formulation of a joint partnership agreement that both schools construct together and then sign.
- TVS will help to identify a suitable UK partner school for Tyume Valley schools seeking partnerships.
- TVS will support Tyume Valley schools in obtaining passports and visas for their teachers to visit the UK school.
- TVS will publicise and celebrate school partnerships through its newsletters and annual reports
- TVS will ensure that partner schools are aware of any child protection/safeguarding policies in each country that need to be satisfied in any school visits.
- TVS will seek to evaluate the impact of any school partnership and publish this on its website.

TYUME VALLEY SCHOOLS SEEKING PARTNERSHIPS WITH UK SCHOOLS

(Where a local phone number is shown, drop the initial zero and use the international code for South Africa: 0027)



Auckland Primary

Principal and link teacher: Mr S M Chitha

Phone : 0837494676

Email: smchitha@webmail.co.za .

Address: P O Box, 1114, Alice 5700, Eastern Cape, Republic of South Africa.

Contact: by Email.

136 pupils on roll, reception to Grade 7 (age 5-12). The school is keen on sports and has access to six laptops but none permanently at the school. The pupils are keen on a variety of sports.

Binfield Park Primary

Principle: Sonwabo Dianga

Link teacher: Somdaka Nombuzo (Grade 4 teacher: 9-10 year olds)

Phone : 0837261511

Email: sdiango@gmail.com.

Address: Binfield Park Primary, P O Box 841, Alice 5700, Eastern Cape, Republic of South Africa.

Contact: by Email.

101 pupils on roll, reception to Grade 7. The school encourages skills leadership and has class representatives. They engage in a variety of sports. They have poor facilities; recently the kitchen area was destroyed in a storm.



Dyamala Primary

Principal and Link teacher: Mr C Makasi.

Email : clivemakhasi@gmail.com.

Address : P O Box 726, Alice 5700, Eastern Cape, Republic of South Africa.

Contact: by Email.

45 pupils on roll, reception to Grade 7. The school has access to a library/resource centre and a computer suite. The new principal is keen to make changes and improvements. The school has poor toilet facilities.

Eluthu L/H Primary

Principal and Link teacher: Ms Boniswa Mashibini.

Phone: 0833678940

Email: boniswa.mashibini@gmail.com.

Address: Elethu L/H Primary, P O Box 724, Alice 5700, Eastern Cape, Republic of South Africa.

Contact: by Email.

80 pupils on roll, reception to Grade 7. Maths and science are the schools' priorities and they also wish to develop learners' IT skills.



Hopefield L/H Primary

Principle and Link teacher: T D Qoma.

Phone : 0722020219

Email: tobi@employite.co.za .

Address: P O Box 2168, King Williams Town 5700, Eastern Cape, Republic of South Africa.

Contact: by post or Email.

50 pupils on roll, reception to Grade 7. The school is in a very deprived village, where the main sources of income are pensions and child grants. The school has started to develop a computer lab but hail storms damaged the roof a year ago. Facilities are poor.

**Gqumahasha Combined School**

Principal and Link teacher: Ms Lulu Pinda.

Phone : 0837699382

Email: lulu.pinda@gmail.com.

Address: P O Box 1028, Alice 5700, Eastern Cape, Republic of South Africa.

Contact: by Email.

168 pupils on roll, ages 5 -16. The school is proud of its partnership between staff, governors and pupils. The school is involved in extra-curricular activities aimed at preserving traditional culture. It has access to an amphitheatre constructed nearby.

**Mabandla Primary**

Principal: Vuyelwa Viola Guzana

Link teacher: Saki Quinette.

Phone: 0833396155.

Address: P O Box 201, Alice 5700, Eastern Cape, Republic of South Africa.

Contact: by post.

60 pupils on roll, reception to Grade 7. The school is especially proud of the achievements of Grade 3 (age 8-9). Pupils take part in a number of sports activities. The school has poor facilities, for example its pit toilets are dangerous. It wishes to improve students' learning in IT.

Melani L/H Primary

Principal: Michael Peter Mthuthuzeli

Link teacher: Miss T O Mguni (Grade 4 teacher ages 9 -10).

Phone: 0725818570

Email: 27823048263@vodamail.co.za.

Address: P O Box, 745, Alice 5700, Eastern Cape, Republic of South Africa.

Contact: by Email.

108 pupils on roll, ages 5-14. The school pursues cultural activities, for example dance and drama. It also pursues a range of sporting activities.

Ncera Zantsi Primary

Principal: C N Sijako

Link teacher: C A Mandla (Grade 3 teacher ages 8-9).

Phone: 083234027

Email: ncerezantsi.pschooll@gmail.com.

Address: P O Box 355, Alice 5700, Eastern Cape, Republic of South Africa.

Contact: by post.

70 pupils aged 5 -13. Pupils are interested in athletics and cricket. The school has competed in maths, reading and drama competitions. There are staff shortages that make it difficult to deliver all subjects.

Ntulikazi Primary

Principal: Mrs Manga (acting)

Link teacher: Mr X A Calana

Phone: 0825180194

Email: [\(200\)200065@vodamail.co.za](mailto:(200)200065@vodamail.co.za).

Address: P O Box, 39, Alice 5700, Eastern Cape, Republic of South Africa.

Contact by Email.

280 pupils, ages 4 to 14 years. The school has in the past been linked with a school in the UK and Mr Calana has been on an exchange visit. The school is one of the largest in the Valley and recently suffered severe damage when a tornado ripped off the roof.

Novumee Junior Primary School

Principal: N. Mabandla

Link teacher: N G Masekwana (Grade 4 teacher ages 9-12).

Phone: 0837582676

Address: P O Box 136, Alice 5700, Eastern Cape, Republic of South Africa.

Contact: by post.

48 pupils, ages 5-12. The school undertakes traditional music and dance. The facilities are poor; it has no running water, no toilets, playground or electricity. Their motto is 'The Sky is the Limit'.

Nqwiliso Tyal L/H Primary

Principal: Miss N L Nqini

Link teacher: Mrs N L Sodlaka (Grade 4 teacher, ages 9-10).

Phone: 0835249720

Email: 200200649@edu.ecprov.gov.za.

Address: P O Box 993, Alice 5700, Eastern Cape, Republic of South Africa.

Contact: by post.

79 pupils on roll. The school supports sports and indigenous games and is aiming to start a vegetable garden.

Ncera Primary

Principal and Link teacher: Miss Lulama (Lulu) Koni.

Phone: 0835948258

Email: lulamakoni@gmail.com.

Address: P O Box 72, Alice 57600, Eastern Cape, Republic of South Africa.

Contact: by Email.

64 pupils ages 4-13. The school undertakes extra- curricular activities, including participation in music competitions. The school wishes to develop students' IT skills.



Amabhele SS School

Principal: Mr T E Mlumbi (acting)

Link teacher: Zama A Grootboom (grade 12 teacher ages17- 23).

Phone: 0732686508

Email: 27823028758@vodamail.co.za.

Address: P O Box,259, Alice 5700, Eastern Cape, Republic of South Africa.

Contact: by post and Email.

70 pupils: ages 13-23. The school was established in 1962 and has falling rolls but good academic results. The school wishes to expose learners to 'New pastures of knowledge...'



George Mqalo Secondary School

Principal: T T Mblele

Link teacher: Mrs B F Mabubebuse (Grade 12 teacher ages 16-22).

Phone: 0765643744

Email ndlelathabile@gmail.com.

Address: P O Box 457, Alice 5700, Eastern Cape, Republic of South Africa.

Contact: by Email.

98 pupils, ages 13-22. The school is experiencing falling numbers. It had a link with a UK school but lost this through staffing changes. A link would help to raise the morale of staff through exchange of

ideas and contact with teachers in the UK. Pupils would also learn more about global issues. The school is poorly resourced.

Enkenkwezini SSS

Principal and Link teacher: Mrs N N Jacobs.

Phone: 0824228718

Email: enkwenkweziss@gmail.com or nosizwejacobs@gmail.com.

Address: P O Box 726, Alice 5700, Eastern Cape, Republic of South Africa.

Contact: by Email.

127 pupils, ages 13-18. The school has good academic results. It has help from student teachers who are studying at the nearby Fort Hare University in Alice. The school promotes sport and seeks to develop its IT work.

Them bani L/H Primary

Principal and Link teacher: Noluthando A Nqini.

Phone: 0826630222

Address: P O Box, Alice 5700, Eastern Cape, Republic of South Africa.

Contact: by post.

40 pupils, ages 5-14. The school is small; three grades are taught in one room. The school teaches mini cricket and takes part in sports fixtures with other schools.