

BRING THE WORLD INTO YOUR SCHOOL



WELCOME TO YOUR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

British Council offers a range of exciting and innovative approaches to learning and development. Global citizenship and curriculum resources, language learning and programmes that foster an international outlook can help learners to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to operate in our increasingly interconnected world.

Our professional development opportunities and international linking programmes help strengthen leadership skills and teaching practice.

Studies conducted by the British Council and other organisations, summarised on page 12, show that international education can benefit learners, teachers and school communities, whatever the type of school, size or location.

Benefits include:

- Improved learning outcomes across the curriculum
- Enhanced professional practice and leadership development for teachers
- Helping schools meet the objectives of inspection bodies
- Supporting an inspiring and outward-looking school

The innovative ways in which schools across Scotland have used British Council opportunities to support improved learning and teaching are also noted in Education Scotland's National Improvement Hub and web resource.

The British Council offers a range of programmes to bring the world into schools in Scotland through professional development, international linking, language learning and classroom resources.

Professional development

We support teachers to develop their teaching and leadership skills, and equip them to internationalise their school's curriculum. Our Connecting Classrooms Core Skills course, delivered by the University of Edinburgh, is GTC Scotland accredited in meeting the professional standards for Learning for Sustainability (LfS).

International linking

We can help you to connect with schools worldwide to work together on curriculum-relevant projects and develop lasting partnerships that benefit students, teachers and the whole school community. eTwinning offers an easy introduction to collaborating online, or you can apply to Erasmus+ for a range of partnership projects.

Language learning

We can support language learning and teaching to help deliver the 1+ 2 language policy in your school. Resources include modern language classroom assistants, teaching packs and competitions.

Classroom resources

Our classroom resources are designed to engage learners with the world around them while supporting the delivery of the Curriculum for Excellence (CfE). They include lesson plans and classroom activities for all curriculum subjects, and provide ideas and inspiration for working with schools in other countries.

Explore our programmes

We offer valuable opportunities for all teachers and schools:

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OUR PROGRAMMES	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	LANGUAGE LEARNING	INTERNATIONAL LINKING	CLASSROOM RESOURCES
Connecting Classrooms	✓		✓	
eTwinning	✓	✓	✓	✓
Erasmus+	✓	✓	✓	
Language Assistants		✓	✓	
International School Award	✓	✓	✓	✓
China Bridge	✓		✓	
HSBC Mandarin Speaking Competition		✓		
UK-German Connection	✓	✓	✓	
Schools Online			✓	✓

Connecting Classrooms

Professional development; international linking

Connecting Classrooms is a global education programme which focuses on the core skills young people need to thrive in life and work in the 21st century.

The programme offers teachers the opportunity to engage and collaborate over a 10-week period. The course includes a day-long participative session at the beginning and end, with fortnightly online support from experienced trainers. The training is delivered by the School of Education, University of Edinburgh, and focuses on embedding the core skills of critical thinking, problem solving, and citizenship using Learning for Sustainability as a context for learning.

Connecting Classrooms is accredited by GTC Scotland as a programme leading to Professional Recognition. Upon completion, participants can apply for a professional partnership with an overseas school along with a £3,000 grant to visit their partner school and collaborate on a joint project, strengthening international learning.

Over two hundred teachers from Scotland have participated in the course to date and have found the training helped them develop their practice and improve learning outcomes:

'I could see that learners' engagement and understanding increased with the critical thinking activity. It was a great way to develop, understand and embed new learning. Learning, thinking, reading and writing skills improved, as did confidence. It got us all thinking about issues in a very practical and real way.'

Primary School Head Teacher

Connecting Classrooms professional development training is available during autumn, winter and spring in Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Stirling.

Find out more:
schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org
 or email schools@britishcouncil.org



eTwinning

Professional development; language learning; international linking, curriculum resources

eTwinning is a digital community for schools in Europe, built around a free online platform which enables partnerships and international linking.

With over 40 countries involved and 450,000 teachers registered, eTwinning allows teachers and schools to collaborate on projects, and access high quality professional development through ready-made resources. The platform offers fully funded professional development opportunities for teachers, which include online workshops and events across partnering countries. eTwinning can be also be the first step towards the International School Award and Erasmus+ funding.

Schools in Scotland have used the platform to support interdisciplinary learning in subjects such as maths, history, geography and music. Teachers have also found eTwinning an excellent mechanism for supporting attainment in literacy:

'Children, in particular those who are less able, found something which helped them to join in - whether it was a group presentation or if they were working with a partner, eTwinning gave them a sense of purpose ... I've found that pupils with low attainment have responded really well.'

Primary School Head Teacher

Teachers can sign up to eTwinning at any time of the year. The projects can begin and last as long as preferred or deemed suitable by the leading teacher.

Find out more:
britishcouncil.org/eTwinning

Erasmus+

Language learning; professional development; international linking

Erasmus+ is a hugely successful European Union programme which offers a range of education, training and sport opportunities. It provides funding for school partnerships and professional development in 28 EU countries and five non EU countries, and is open to education organisations across all sectors, including schools, further, higher and adult education.

Many schools in Scotland have benefited greatly from Erasmus+ funding to deliver a variety of activities, such as language training and job shadowing in partner schools across Europe. In the last school year alone, schools from 25 local authorities across Scotland have engaged with the programme.

Erasmus+ is divided into two main areas.

Erasmus+ Key Action 1

KA1 focuses on mobility, allowing staff to undertake professional development and gain work experience in an international environment for up to two months. Opportunities can include studying courses, job shadowing and observation, or undertaking a teaching placement. Funding can also support other priority areas such as the implementation of 1+2 strategy. For instance, authority wide language training provision for primary school teachers has been secured in Scotland over the last year.

Erasmus+ Key Action 2

KA 2 covers school partnerships, where collaboration is encouraged to tackle joint areas of priority. Past partnerships have explored how to improve teaching standards, global citizenship, language skills and entrepreneurship.

‘These exchanges offer a rich context for learning and, as a school; we believe this to be extremely valuable in promoting responsible global citizenship.’

Secondary School Head Teacher

Collaborations can operate at school or local authority level.

Application deadlines for 2017/18 school year will be announced in October 2017. Applications can be submitted for activities covering up to two years for KA1 and up to three years for KA2.

Find out more:
erasmusplus.org.uk/schools-funding
 or email erasmusplus.enquiries@britishcouncil.org



Language Assistants

Language learning and cultural immersion; international linking

The Language Assistants programme, supported by the Scottish Government, provides schools with an opportunity to employ a native speaker of French, Spanish, German, Italian or Mandarin Chinese. Language Assistants provide substantial assistance with the implementation of the 1+2 language policy.

Language Assistants can work with pupils and teachers to enhance their language skills, increase their cultural awareness and boost their confidence. They bring language to the classroom and motivate students to develop their understanding of the world around them.

Responsibilities can be tailored to suit your whole school approach. For example, Language Assistants can develop lesson plans, interdisciplinary learning through a project based approach and extra-curricular activities, such as lunch time clubs focused on their country's culture. They can even help develop international partnerships with a school in their own country.



The nearly one hundred and fifty Language Assistants placed in schools throughout Scotland in the last school year played an important role in supporting learner's attainment.

‘Our school and department benefited greatly from having a modern language assistant both in the BGE and Senior Phase ... allowing for a better meeting of learners' needs which will translate positively on attainment. The numbers of pupils choosing to study a language has also increased this year, which our assistant played a big role in.’

Secondary School Principal Teacher

Find out more:
britishcouncil.org/language-assistants/scottish-schools
 or email
language.assistants@britishcouncil.org



International School Award

Curriculum resources; language learning; professional development; international linking

Established in 1999, the International School Award (ISA) is a free global accreditation and award scheme given to schools that demonstrate engagement in international activity.

With four levels of certification and accreditation (foundation, intermediate, full accreditation and re-accreditation), the award is a supportive and motivational framework that guides schools through their international work. We have an increasing number of winners from Scotland and would like to help more schools benefit from the valuable support the framework gives.

Find out more:
schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org
 or email isa@britishcouncil.org



China Bridge

Professional development; international linking

China Bridge provides an opportunity for head teachers from Scotland to join their counterparts from across the UK, to embark on a week-long professional development visit to China. This is a unique opportunity to network, establish a school link in China, inspire schools to learn Mandarin and introduce Chinese culture into their curriculum.

Participants receive support to help them initiate and sustain Chinese school links before, during and after the visit. Travel, accommodation and expenses in China are covered by the programme. However, schools must pay for their own flights.

We are keen to see as many head teachers in Scotland as possible benefit from the scheme that connects your school to one of the world's fastest growing economies. Applications for visits in 2018/2019 will be open in school year 2017/18.

Find out more:
schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org

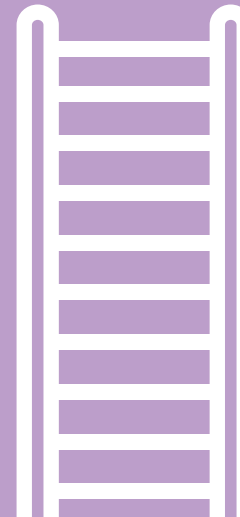
HSBC Mandarin Speaking Competition

Language learning

The HSBC Mandarin Speaking Competition is an opportunity for students to improve their Mandarin language skills. With entries for beginner, intermediate and advanced levels, and also a group performance category. The competition allows students to develop vocabulary and improve pronunciation and raises their confidence for oral examinations. There is also the opportunity to win a visit to China.

We hope to see more learners in Scotland benefit from the programme and the transformational experience that a visit to China can offer.

Find out more:
schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org
 or email chinaschools@britishcouncil.org



UK-German Connection

Language learning; professional development; international linking

UK-German Connection is a bilateral government initiative for school and youth links.* With the aim of facilitating UK-German youth relations and bringing young people together, UK-German Connection is the first port of call for advice, activities and funding for pupils, teachers, schools and youth groups.

UK-German Connection offers:

- grants for bilateral school projects across the curriculum
- funded language and culture courses
- seminars and trips for young people
- ambassador networks
- CPD opportunities for teachers, and
- advice, support and special initiatives for school partnerships with Germany.

A calendar of opportunities and deadlines is available on the website.

Find out more:

ukgermanconnection.org

or email info@ukgermanconnection.org



Schools Online

Curriculum resources; international linking

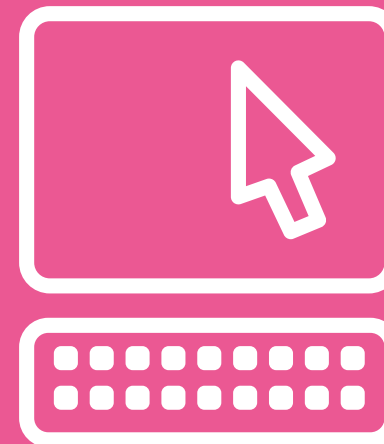
Schools Online is the British Council's online platform that brings the world into classrooms by offering free resources, professional development courses and opportunities to form relationships with schools across the world.

By registering for a free account with Schools Online you will gain access to CPD materials, overseas training and placement opportunities. Classroom resources such as education packs, lesson and assembly plans, are available to suit all age ranges and cover topics including: maths, science, creativity, English, social studies and global citizenship.

Find out more:

schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org

or email schools@britishcouncil.org



* UK-German Connection has been established and developed in collaboration between the UK and German governments, British Council and Pädagogischer Austauschdienst.

World Class: how global thinking can improve your school

Studies by the British Council, the National Foundation for Educational Research, and the UCL Institute of Education are analysed in World Class: how global thinking can improve your school, a report on the impact of international education in schools across the UK.

The report examines the ways in which international learning supports curriculum delivery and motivates learners. It demonstrates how an appreciation of cultural diversity can help young people of all ages and reinforce the wider benefits of language learning. Benefits for teachers through professional learning and collaboration with international peers are also explored.

For schools, findings include a reduction in the performance gap, and an increase in overall professional capacity of the school, both of which aid in meeting inspection requirements. It also explores how international education has been used to positively engage with the local community.

Benefits for learners

- Contributes towards improved reading, writing and communication skills
- Improves the performance of under-achieving learners
- Enhances skills that are relevant in a global economy
- Helps improve motivation
- Develops core ICT skills
- Raises awareness and understanding of different cultures and religions

Benefits for teachers

- An important method of professional development
- Improves confidence in the classroom and develops leadership skills
- Can help improve behaviour of learners in class
- Improves stimulation through refreshed content and resources
- Promotes knowledge of other countries and cultures
- Improves knowledge of global development

Benefits for schools

- Helps reduce the performance gap amongst pupils
- Builds professional capacity in schools
- Makes the curriculum more stimulating and improves ethos around the school
- Improves engagement with the local community
- Helps schools meet the objectives of inspection bodies

Benefits for the community

- Improves relationship with parents
- Brings the local community together
- Helps the transition from primary to secondary school
- Develops partnerships with local authorities and businesses

Read the full report at schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org



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British Council Scotland promotes Scottish excellence and interests in arts and education through our international programmes and global network. We provide teachers and schools in Scotland with international opportunities to improve teaching and learning.