

School News

Schools Linking Project Update: February 2006

This year there are 54 linked primary schools working in pairs across the Bradford district on a variety of cross-curricular themes, including: 'team-spirit', 'journeys' and 'doorways', plus a new project in Keighley, linking a further 15 primary schools and the three secondary schools these feed. All Y5 pupils in these primary schools are working with some Y12 students from the secondaries on a variety of interesting 6-week programmes.

The aim of all this work is to provide opportunities for children from different ethnic backgrounds, who would not otherwise meet, to work, play and learn together and to develop an understanding of citizenship in our district.

An external evaluation carried out last year has shown that this work can break down barriers and facilitate intercultural friendships, as well as introducing a broader perspective to the curriculum and enabling teachers to work alongside creative practitioners in many new and exciting ways. This year we are also working a lot more with secondary schools on several different linking projects, including a very special opportunity to work with Nobel Peace Laureates on a peace plan for the district.

The Schools Linking Project has always attracted a lot of media attention because it has been pioneering work, but this year, for the first time we have been asked to speak about it in other contexts including Northern Ireland and Israel/Palestine. We are honoured to share the linking work in these contexts and are aware that we learn more than we offer in these situations. We are also becoming involved in European linking initiatives, with seven countries working together on active citizenship programmes and are supporting schools that now feel they would also like to become involved in international links.

For further information about any of this, please contact the Schools Linking Team on 01274 385920 or look on the website: www.schoolslinkingproject.org