

SCHOOL LINKING

Transforming lives through education



TOGETHER WE LEARN

Together We Learn was originally established on a simple ethos: to link schools and pupils in the UK and Ethiopia to allow both to learn from one another.

Over the last 20 years, our mission has grown to include activities that increase access to education in Ethiopia; training teachers, building new classrooms and supporting families directly through child sponsorship. School linking remains one of our core activities to develop mutual understanding and respect between different cultures.

WHY ESTABLISH A LINK?

A school link is a good way to get pupils excited about another country. It provides an opportunity for your pupils to learn about another culture and encourages them to appreciate diversity both locally and globally.

We believe in challenging misconceptions about Africa. The representation that many children in the UK see of African countries can be very one-dimensional. Our school linking programme aims to build an in-depth understanding of Africa, focusing on one country. We encourage schools and students to engage in a meaningful, sustainable and equitable relationship with their link partners.

SUPPORTING GLOBAL LEARNING

Developing a link with a school in another continent contributes to your schools' PSHE and SMSC requirements. Linking with schools in Ethiopia introduces pupils to a different culture and provides a space in which they can explore other spiritual beliefs and social viewpoints.

Being part of a school link contributes to a broad and balanced curriculum, makes your school eligible for the International School Award and enables participation in the British Council's Connecting Classrooms programme, which funds teacher and student exchanges between linked schools.

TWO MODELS

Our school linking programme provides two models for connecting with schools in Ethiopia so you can choose the model that best fits your school's needs.

You can build a long-term direct link with a school in Ethiopia through our **School-to-School Connection**, or set up a year-long **Ethiopia Education Connection** to engage pupils through a series of workshops and get them involved in supporting an education project.

Read on to learn more about the school linking models.

SCHOOL-TO-SCHOOL CONNECTION

A School-to-School Connection is the best option for schools wanting to work with an Ethiopian school directly, enabling you to build a relationship over several years. The link will allow students to learn about a new culture and gain in-depth knowledge of another country.

Our team in Ethiopia will identify a local school seeking to partner with a school in the UK. The link is formalised with a signed agreement and the UK school receives a profile, including notice board materials, on their linked school in Ethiopia. The Ethiopian school will receive a notice board and information about your school to display their new school link.

From there we will provide themed lesson plans every half term, facilitate annual shared learning activities between your schools, and send regular newsletters from our staff. The Together We Learn school linking staff in both the UK and Ethiopia will support your link.

A School-to-School Connection includes:

- A **welcome assembly or in-class talk** from a member of our Together We Learn's UK team or prepared presentation for your school link coordinator. We will introduce your pupils to the school link, and Ethiopia as a country.
- A **welcome pack** including information about your linked school, noticeboard resources and a formal linking agreement.
- **Shared learning exercises** sent between students in each school; a great way for pupils to learn about, and from, each other!
- **Newsletters** each half-term with information about Together We Learn's wider work and topical questions for discussion.
- A **themed lesson plan** for each school term. The plans include a presentation and exercises to explore topics affecting children in the UK and Ethiopia. The lessons invite pupils to examine different perspectives and are prepared with national curriculum requirements in mind.
- Access to our online bank of over 50 **teaching resources**.
- **Support** from our UK office to assist with your school link and related activities such as arranging contact with **visiting speakers** and **teacher and student exchanges**.

A School-to-School Connection is £500 a year.

We offer discounted rates for state schools:
£350 a year for state secondary schools
£250 a year for state primary schools.



TOGETHER WE LEARN

LINKING & LEARNING



"First hand experience of life in Ethiopia has a huge impact on our teaching of development issues and to understanding different values and cultures in Africa. We have built the coffee ceremony into our year 7 break-out day and have a whole scheme of learning in year 8 based on Ethiopian life."

- Isobel, Geography Teacher



Backwell Secondary school in Bristol has had a School-to-School Connection with Angereb Secondary in Gondar since 2007. Over the years, a generation of Backwell students have had the chance to learn about Ethiopia by communicating directly with students in Gondar, through school visits from Ethiopian teachers and Together We Learn (then Link Ethiopia) staff in 2011 and 2018 and by travelling to Ethiopia as gap year volunteers 7 times over the years.

Angereb students, in turn, have been able to improve their English through shared learning exercises and teachers have participated in the sharing of best practice as part of teacher exchanges.

Backwell students have participated in a shared learning activity every year and even contributed to our lesson resources by developing a curriculum on water use and sustainability for both schools in 2010.

Backwell students have driven the link themselves, and built up their practical skills and first-hand knowledge of global learning by organising fundraising activities to build new IT and toilet facilities in Angereb in 2007 and 2015 and by visiting their partner school as volunteers.

EDUCATION ETHIOPIA CONNECTION

An Education Ethiopia Connection is the best option for schools who want their pupils to engage with another culture and the power of practical action, without an annual financial commitment.

The link will allow pupils to gain knowledge about Ethiopia and daily life there whilst providing an opportunity to support an education project in Ethiopia. As well as introducing your pupils to Ethiopia, an Education Ethiopia Connection will explore the work Together We Learn does to support education in the country. Pupils will learn about some of the barriers to education in Ethiopia and how they can be overcome. They will have the opportunity to become community fundraisers supporting educational projects in Ethiopia.

Themed lesson plans every term will build the pupils' understanding of Ethiopian culture, provide opportunities to explore spiritual beliefs and diverse viewpoints, and link into their fundraising activities. Lesson plans are in line with the national curriculum requirements, promoting SMSC and PSHE.

An Education Ethiopia Connection includes:

- **A welcome assembly or in-class talk** from a member of our UK team, or shared as a presentation to your school link coordinator
- **A welcome pack** with information about Ethiopian society, history and daily life for the families we support
- **Newsletters** each half-term with information about our wider work and topical questions for discussion
- **A themed lesson plan** for each school term. The plans include a presentation and exercises to explore topics affecting children in the UK and Ethiopia. The lessons invite pupils to examine different perspectives
- Access to our online bank of over **50 teaching resources**.
- **A Project Pack** with information about the education project your link will support and tips on fundraising activities.
- **Support** to assist with your school link

We ask schools with an Education Ethiopia Connection to commit to a £350 fundraising target to support an education project in Ethiopia.



TOGETHER WE LEARN

BUILDING A FUTURE



Headington School approached Together We Learn in 2012 to organize a student trip. They wanted to give their students the opportunity to visit a school in Ethiopia for the first time and also to make a lasting difference for the students there.

Talking to our team in Bishoftu, South Ethiopia, we arranged a volunteer placement at Hamle 19 school in Assela.

We shared information with the teachers and students at Headington about the needs of Hamle 19 school and made a plan to help the school build a new toilet block. Headington students organised a number of activities to raise funds and were able to raise £3,000 for Hamle 19.

The same year, a group of students and teachers from Headington flew to Ethiopia for a 2 week trip during which time they met the students of Hamle 19, learnt first-hand about local culture and history and were able to help with the toilet construction.

Headington have kept their connection with Hamle 19 school and the town of Assella, organising a further five fundraising trips to Hamle 19 and, more recently, to Dosha and Silingo Elementary schools.

Since 2012 their fundraising and volunteering have built two classroom blocks, a sports pitch, two toilet blocks and a library building. New facilities that will benefit a generation of children in Assela, inspiring students in the UK and Ethiopia.

"The staff and students were really welcoming and it is encouraging to know that our work at the school is going to make a difference to their education. The team had all worked hard to fundraise before the trip – babysitting, selling things, bake sales – and once they had met the children at the school, a number of them wished they could have done more. We are looking forward to seeing the developments with the classroom block and hopefully to return next year with a new team to complete another floor."

Deputy Head Teacher of Headington School



Ethiopian Airlines instated their first female captain in 2010.

Worldwide 3% captains are female.

In the UK 6% of captains are female.

(The Guardian – 2017)

WHAT'S IN A LESSON PLAN?

Our lesson plans have been developed to meet the needs of the curriculum, SMSC, and PSHE requirements of your school. They have been designed so that they are adaptable for you, because you know best what is most relevant for your pupils. Each plan is available in different key stage focuses.

Each lesson plan has a theme such as sports, global warming, gender equality.

- **A Lesson Plan guide** explains the overall learning objective, what resources are required and a "how-to" guide for the class exercises.
- **Teaching Objectives** explain what subjects the lesson, presentation and exercises touch on and related learning objectives
- **A Powerpoint presentation** is provided in an editable format so you can adjust it to make it relevant for your class and other subjects they may be studying . The presentation includes guidance notes for each slide.
- **Class exercises** with resources for pre-presentation and post-presentation activities, will help get children thinking. The exercises range from creative writing to research exercises, depending on the key stage and theme .
- **Links to further information** are provided in the Lesson Plan document which includes further articles to read, or research and discussion topics you can draw your pupils' attention to.
- **Posters** may also be provided on the topic to display on your school link noticeboard.

RESOURCES



Stereotypes

Teachers' guide

The resources in this pack are aimed at Key Stage 2 and have been designed so that they can be used across a variety of different topics to encourage cross-curricular learning. To see how these resources can be used together as a single lesson plan please see the 'Suggested Order of Resources' on page 2.

Below are the KS2 learning objectives that can be achieved through the use of these resources.

Resources	Suggested objectives
1. Geography	KS2: Understand geographical similarities, differences and links between places through the study of human and physical geography of a region within Africa.
(3) Workshop	KS2: Promote British values enables students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence; understand the importance of identifying and combating discrimination
2. SMSC	KS2: Learn to differentiate facts from opinion. It helps them to become more confident and justify their opinions.
(2) Worksheet	

DEFINITIONS

- **Prejudice** – a bad opinion of a group of people that actual experience.
- **Stereotype** - a common and simplified idea of a person.
- **Fact** - a thing that is known to be true.

COSMONAUTS & ASTRONAUTS

1961 Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin orbited Earth in the world's first manned space flight on April 12th, 1961. Less than a month later American astronaut Alan Shepard was the first to successfully launch into space on a suborbital flight on May 5th, 1961.



Name: Date:

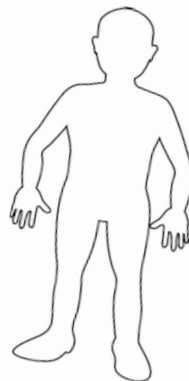
My Life

We are all born. Some of us are born male and some of us are born female, but we were all once babies. When we first arrived we were given names. There are names just for boys and there are names just for girls; these different names help people to tell us apart! I like my name; it is Lily and I am a 7 year-old girl.

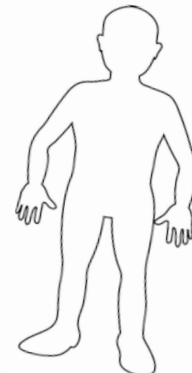
I have two little brothers: Toby and Sam. We live in Edinburgh with my mum, Caroline, and my Dad, Stuart. My mum is a nurse which is really cool. I want to be a nurse when I am older because girls are better at looking after people than boys. My Dad is a builder. You have to be quite good at building things to have that job!

Recently my youngest brother Toby has been acting very strangely; he has decided that pink is his favourite colour; that is really going too far! Pink is my favourite colour but that's not fair because pink is a girls' colour. Anyway, enough about my family, I must go now.

We go to school every day. I like to go to school because I can learn new things and make friends. I like to go to school because I can learn new things and make friends. I like to go to school because I can learn new things and make friends.



A car mechanic name:



A dancer name:



AFRICAN NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS

She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her work for human rights and the environment. She was also known for her work with helping to support the environment. In the 1970s she led millions of trees across the world.

"We have studied Ethiopia as part of a Whole School Creative Curriculum theme and the partnership has benefited because of this. Our pupils love to receive letters from their pen pals and there is a real buzz around school whenever we focus on the link. We have been very impressed with the level of support and communication given to our school."

- Joy, Head Teacher in Leicestershire

"We found the resources provided were so thought-provoking that they impacted on the whole curriculum."

- Lyn, Teacher in Hertfordshire

"We had an Ofsted inspection [...]. The inspector came on the day my class was introducing the school link [...] and judged the assembly to be outstanding!"

- Carolyn, Teacher in Suffolk

"Probably one of the biggest impacts has been through the gap scheme. [Students have] always returned full of their stories and have taken numerous assemblies to pass on the message about the rewards of supporting our school link students."

- Isobel, Teacher in Bristol

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SET UP
A SCHOOL LINK FOR YOUR
SCHOOL, OR YOU HAVE ANY
FURTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT
SCHOOL LINKING, CONTACT
OUR FRIENDLY LONDON TEAM**



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