

LANGS WORKSHOP  
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# HOW INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY CAN SUPPORT LANGUAGE LEARNING AND TEACHING

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<http://scotland.britishcouncil.org>

# ABOUT THE BRITISH COUNCIL

- The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. Our mission is to create 'a friendly knowledge and understanding' between the people of the UK and the wider world.
- Founded in 1934, we are a UK charity governed by Royal Charter and a UK public body.
- We are operationally independent but make significant contributions to a wide range of HMG and devolved administration priorities, including in the sphere of international relations, education and culture.
- Scottish Government is consulted and contributes to our corporate plan and is formally represented on our advisory committees.
- Our annual turnover is around £1 billion with 20% of income from grant funding. The remainder from exams, teaching, contracts and donations.

# OUR WORK IN EDUCATION

We help schools, colleges and universities in Scotland to internationalise teaching and learning. Through the exchange of knowledge, ideas and information, we create global opportunities and partnerships across the Scottish education sector.

We work with:

- All of Scotland's universities and HEIs,
- All of Scotland's college regions,
- And a third of Scotland's schools,

Our programmes and resources for schools support learning, teaching and school improvement. They aim to broaden learners' horizons, and develop global thinking and core skills relevant in a global economy.

This activity supports key drivers from the National Improvement Framework, including school leadership, teacher professionalism and school improvement.

# OUR OFFER TO SCHOOLS IN SCOTLAND

- **Professional Development:** support teachers to develop their teaching and leadership skills, equipping them to internationalise curriculum, innovate and refresh teaching practice. Key programmes include Connecting Classrooms and Erasmus +.
- **International Linking:** we help connect schools, teachers, and learners worldwide to work together on curriculum relevant projects through programmes such as eTwinning.
- **Language Learning:** through teaching resources and programmes such as Modern Language Assistants and Erasmus + we support the implementation of 1 + 2 Language Policy
- **Classroom Resources:** Resources are designed to engage learners with the world around them while supporting the delivery of Curriculum for Excellence. Resource packs support interdisciplinary learning. For instance, our 'How can we keep the lights on' and Climate4Classrooms lesson plans support Learning for Sustainability while our 'Queens of Syria' and 'India' packs support a range of curriculum areas.

# KEY ACTION 1 (KA1)



## **Mobility of staff – training, job shadowing, teaching assignments**

**2019 – Applicants in Scotland were allocated €1.8 million.**

**€1.1 million was awarded to 9 local authority bids, with a further 53 individual school bids**

Highland Council: €309,000 for language training

St Mark's Primary school were awarded €143,250 for the "*Different Together: Building Approaches to Bilingualism, Pluriliteracies and Cultural Diversity to promote Inclusion, Health and Well-Being and Raising Attainment through school partnerships*". The project aims to build capacity in supporting Inclusion, Health and Well-Being in schools through sharing of practice across a range of EU countries.

## School exchange partnerships and strategic partnerships

**Neilston Primary School** “Exploring the Endless Possibilities of an Interdisciplinary Approach to Language Learning” awarded €98,995



Pollokshields Primary School



Glasgow school praised in House of Commons for international project that boosted pupil literacy

Pollockshields Primary School in Glasgow  
“Learning to Live, Living to Learn” €54,855

# ETWINNING



- make a lasting impact on learning by designing and running exciting curriculum related classroom projects with schools in over 40 countries
- access world-class, free and funded online and face-to-face professional development opportunities, taking place in locations across Europe and neighbouring countries
- showcase your school's amazing work to your local community, UK-wide and beyond
- gain recognition through accreditation for your project work

## [Short film on language project](#)



# MODERN LANGUAGE ASSISTANTS

'That personal contact with someone from the country – it was just the impetus...It just made the world of difference.'

'The pupils were more confident in their final speaking exam.'

'Pupils gain so much: cultural insights; increased motivation to learn languages; benefiting from building a relationship with a "real" person from the country; up-to-date knowledge about current events and culture.'



Classroom assistant – 6 languages, 14 countries



Real interaction with native speakers, walking talking authentic resource



Enhances speaking and listening skills (for staff as well as learners)



Support for inter-disciplinary learning and projects



Improved cultural interaction



Reciprocal arrangements – feeds into future teaching workforce

# CONNECTING CLASSROOMS THROUGH GLOBAL LEARNING

- Learning for sustainability
- Intercultural understanding, identity, world views, citizenship
- SDG focussed projects – interdisciplinary learning
- Support working in clusters
- Global dimension – rich linguistic mix (French, Arabic, Swahili, Urdu...)
- Free high quality CDP
- Funded partnership projects
- Reciprocal visits
- Classroom resources



## THE GLOBAL GOALS

### Free classroom resources, themed around the SDGs (Global Goals):

- Zero hunger
- Responsible consumption and production
- Gender Equality
- Quality Education
- Peace, justice & strong institutions
- Zero waste
- Decent work and economic growth
- Affordable clean energy for all
- Life below water



CONNECTING  
CLASSROOMS

# IMPACT STUDY

In the UK our young people need access to meaningful international experiences through formal and non-formal education.

For meaningful international experiences, our work with schools needs to be context relevant and supportive of key priorities.

We commissioned research to better understand the specific ways in which our offer supports **national priorities**, improving attainment in literacy, numeracy, health and well-being *and* related interventions aimed at closing the poverty related attainment gap.

<https://scotland.britishcouncil.org/british-council-school-programmes-scotland-impact-study>

# IMPACT STUDY

## Findings

The Scotland-wide research included both quantitative and qualitative evidence and was completed in January 2019. The study concluded that programmes:

- Support increased attainment, particularly in literacy and language learning.
- Provide a motivational context for learning, widening horizons and building aspirations and confidence of learners.
- Professional development opportunities for teachers were assessed as system relevant, high quality and valued.
- Schools used programme engagement to support improvement plans.

# SHORT FILM



## [Short film](#)

See how Glasgow City Council embraces international activity within schools