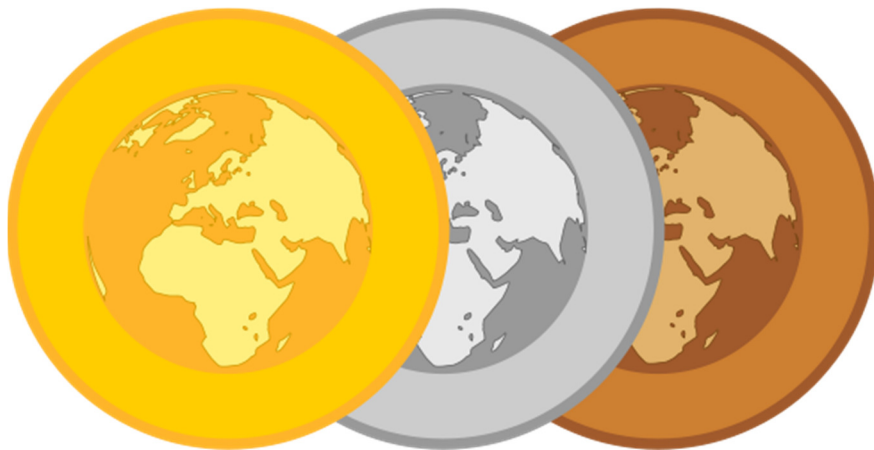


## Diocese of Chichester International Church School Programme



## **Introduction**

The Diocese of Chichester has enjoyed companion links with the Anglican Churches in West Africa since 1965 and Kenya since 1967. Formal links are in place with the dioceses of Freetown (Sierra Leone), Bo (Sierra Leone), Guinea, and Gambia and the missionary diocese of Cameroon. These five dioceses are a part of the Anglican Church of the Province of West Africa. The diocese also shares links with the diocese of Nakuru, Nyahururu, Kericho and Maralal in Kenya.

## **What is linking about?**

In essence linking is about COMPANIONSHIP. It is in the coming together that we get to know one another, learn from each other and encourage and support one another in times of struggle and celebration, in our growth in mission and ministry and in deepening our worship of God.

Companionship is:

- Meeting each other;
- Praying for each other;
- Learning from each other;
- Challenging each other; and,
- Each living into communion with the other



Schools must be careful that links do not lead to reinforce stereotypes or focus too much on differences, therefore our Church School links should be established with:

- A commitment to an equal partnership
- A commitment to educational aims for pupils on both sides

- A commitment to effective communication

### What are the benefits for your school?

There are many benefits to be gained from developing a school partnership. These partnerships can encourage enthusiasm and motivation for learning. They can help pupils to develop self-awareness, respect for others, an awareness of global issues and an appreciation of diversity. Partnership with an international Anglican school will also give pupils and teachers a wider understanding of the Christian faith in a global context.

For teachers, there is the opportunity to share best practise, and to encourage pupils to think as global citizens. For teachers based within Church Schools, there is the opportunity to see how Christian Distinctiveness is lived out throughout the Anglican Church in other countries.

### International Church School Awards

The awards are intended to show the level of interaction and commitment that both schools have to their partnership. Every school is encouraged to work towards the Gold award although we realise that this may not be practical for all schools in terms of the time and resource commitment required.

### Accreditation Criteria for Awards

Category	Bronze Award	Silver Award	Gold Award
<b>School Leadership</b>	<p>Leaders ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A commitment to a long term link of friendship is established</li> <li>• Regular communication about the schools' international link to the whole school and wider community</li> <li>• Responsibility is given to a key member of the leadership team for communication with the partner school.</li> </ul>	<p>In addition to bronze, leaders ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued commitment to an international school link</li> <li>• At least one joint project is completed with the link school within the academic year that is of benefit to pupils and the wider community</li> <li>• That the local church is involved with the project</li> </ul>	<p>In addition to bronze and silver, leaders ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A strong partnership has been developed across at least three years, with both Bronze and Silver levels previously achieved.</li> <li>• Teaching staff involved with the partnership have had the opportunity to visit their partner school</li> <li>• Long term projects are established with partner school including</li> </ul>

			the wider community
<b>Teaching and Learning</b>	<p>Teachers ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is at least one interaction per term between the school and their partner school. This could be linked to the “Year of...” initiative from the Diocese of Chichester, or they can decide to focus on the main Christian festivals such as Christmas and Easter.</li> <li>• Explore the theme of community through collective worship with input from partner schools</li> </ul>	<p>In addition to bronze, teachers ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular contact is maintained with partner school teachers</li> <li>• Organise activities which will connect pupils with the partner school</li> </ul>	<p>In addition to bronze and silver, teachers ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities are conceptualised and organised that regularly connect to partner schools</li> <li>• Use technology creatively to share project instructions, share best practise and co-direct a project with a link teacher at their partner school</li> </ul>
<b>Pupil Participation</b>	<p>Pupils are encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn about the culture of the country where their link school is located</li> <li>• Send messages/greetings at key times in the Christian calendar</li> <li>• Pupils involved with the link are encouraged to explore faith around the world through images from</li> </ul>	<p>In addition to bronze, pupils are encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in a joint project with the r link school. This could be driven by a diocesan initiative or a school based project.</li> <li>• Gain further understanding of the challenges facing their peers in their partner schools</li> </ul>	<p>In addition to bronze and silver, pupils are encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in longer term projects</li> <li>• Identify, research and propose solutions to a shared problem through use of online collaboration with partner school pupils</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• their partner school</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gain an understanding of each other's journey with faith.</li> <li>• Regular contact is maintained with the leadership team in the partner school</li> </ul>	
<b>Community Engagement</b>	Community engagement is not required at this stage	Parents and Church should be encouraged to be involved with your project	Parents and local church congregation should be fully aware of your school partnership and actively involved in ongoing projects

### How to communicate with your link school



Communication is key to creating a strong and lasting relationship with partner schools. With a growing reliance on e-mail for communication here in the UK, we can often forget the challenges

faced in other parts of the world. Some partner schools will not have an internet connection nor will they have access to the internet. Below are some suggestions of how to ensure regular contact is maintained:

- Post can be sent to your partner school, either directly to them should they have their own PO Box number, or through the relevant diocesan office who will be able to deliver this to the school. This form of communication can however be slow, and may not be reliable in every partner country.
- Communications Apps, such as Skype, WhatsApp and FaceTime can be highly effective. These can be used to share images, files, videos and for voice calls. Many teachers within partner schools will have phones. Indeed, this may be the best way in which to communicate
- Image sharing apps such as Instagram- private accounts can be set up so that only those involved can see, both schools in a partnership can share images at times convenient to them
- Dropbox- free accounts can be set up on Dropbox and files can be shared between schools. This may be useful for sharing project plans, teaching resources, images etc. Dropbox is traditionally accessed via computer however there is also a Dropbox app for mobile phones that can be used.
- Create a blog/ video blog that both schools can contribute towards

## **Ideas for projects**

### **Bronze Level**

Projects at Bronze level should show that there is a commitment to establishing a firm link based on companionship. Schools should be able to evidence that they have completed at least 1 activity per term interacting with their partner school, for example:

*Talking Heads- pupils can be filmed using phones/tablets, discussing what life is like for them; the clothes they wear, the food they eat, the hobbies they have. These can be easily shared across partner schools using technology such as Whatsapp.*

*Christmas Greetings- pupils can be encouraged to send Christmas greetings in the post or via online communication.*

*Shared Prayer Time- school leaders at each school agree a time at which they will pray for each other. This prayer can be written by pupils at both schools to create a Link School Prayer, specific for this time.*

*Shared Collective Worship- If you are able to set up a video link with your partner school, shared collective worship could be worked towards, using resources such as Worship Workshop*

*<http://www.worshipworkshop.org.uk/>*

### **Silver Level**

Projects at Silver Level should show a continued commitment to established links and should look to develop a simple project that is of benefit to pupils and the wider community. This project could be based around a diocesan initiative or something the schools decide together. For example:

*Diocesan Year of Prayer Events and Competitions- The events and competitions for “Year of Prayer” in 2017-18 will give a good opportunity for collaborative working across partner schools to create prayer spaces, prayer gardens and art work. This can then be displayed in churches connected to both schools, creating an international exhibition for schools, children, families and congregations.*

*Other project ideas can be found on through the British Council Connecting classrooms website <https://schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org/about-programmes/connecting-classrooms/collaborative-template>*

### **Gold Level**

Projects at gold level should be long term projects, that will address a mutual problem shared by both schools. This project should include the wider community, such as parents and the church congregation. This project could also involve teacher exchange, and exchange of advice and guidance around teaching methods and curriculum. Examples of potential projects could include:

Gender Equality <https://schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org/classroom-resources/list/gender-equality>

Zero Hunger <https://schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org/classroom-resources/list/zero-hunger>

### **How to get involved**

Schools that would like to establish an overseas link must first contact the diocesan education department within their diocese to express an interest.

### **Useful Links**

<https://schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org/>

<https://www.etwinning.net/en/pub/projects.cfm>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-30081784>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00nkdgx>

<http://www.worshipworkshop.org.uk/>