



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AWARD

Press release

28.09.15

British Council International School Award success for St John's Meads C of E Primary School

St John's Meads C of E Primary School in Eastbourne has been awarded the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of its work to bring the world into the classroom.

The International School Award is a badge of honour for schools that do outstanding work in international education, such as through links with partner schools overseas. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need to live and work as global citizens.

St John's Meads international work includes projects completed alongside their partner school, Chilwa 2 school in Malawi where they share ideas and learn from each other's' perspectives. St John's ran a successful 'Global Literacy Week' where the whole school looked at the book 'George saves the world by lunchtime' by Dr Jo Readman and Ley Honor Roberts. Each class focused on projects about saving energy, reusing, recycling and composting. The award also reflects outstanding MFL work through their Spanish curriculum, which is taught from Reception to Year 6 weekly. The children were able to present their learning in Spanish Assemblies to parents and other classes.

Alison Flynn, Executive Head said 'It is a delight to receive this award for the work we all enjoy and that is part of our every- day curriculum. The children and staff are keen and motivated to continue our global citizenship activities, recognising the part we play in our big wide world. '

Andy Best, Head of School said: ‘We are very proud to receive such an award that recognises the hard work of our staff and children in bringing the world into the classroom. It has allowed the children to develop a real understanding of the responsibility they have as individuals, not just in their own school, but globally too. This has such a positive impact on them as citizens even at this young age.’

British Council Chief Executive, Sir Ciarán Devane, said: ‘The school’s fantastic international work has rightfully earned it this prestigious award. The International School Award is a great chance for schools to demonstrate the important work they’re doing to bring the world into their classrooms. Adding an international dimension to children’s education ensures that they are truly global citizens and helps prepare them for successful future careers in an increasingly global economy.’

The award is now available worldwide in countries such as India, Egypt, Lebanon and Pakistan as part of the Connecting Classrooms programme, which is delivered by the British Council and supported by the Department for International Development (DFID).

International Development Secretary Justine Greening said:

‘Young people must be at the heart of our work to create a safer and more prosperous world for everyone and we need to ensure their voices are heard if we are to win the fight against global poverty. That is why I am delighted to celebrate the international work of [name of school here] and the energy and passion of the young people involved.’

“The International School Award is a great way of highlighting how young people have the potential to change things for the better. I’m sure that schools getting involved will be broadening the horizons of their students, which will not only help their careers but benefit their wider lives in the future.”

Around 5,000 International School Awards have been presented to successful schools in the UK since the scheme began in 1999.

The International School Award encourages and supports schools to develop:

- An international ethos embedded throughout the school
- A majority of pupils within the school impacted by and involved in international work
- Collaborative curriculum-based work with a number of partner schools
- Curriculum-based work across a range of subjects
- Year-round international activity
- Involvement of the wider community

- ENDS -

To interview the school or for images, please contact Lisa Newton Brown on 01323 730255

For more information about the International School Award, please contact our team at schools@britishcouncil.org

Notes to Editors:

The **British Council International School Award** started in 1999 to recognise the schools leading the way in instilling and developing a global dimension into the learning experience of all children and young people. It is managed by the British Council.

British Council Schools Online is a supportive 'one stop shop' to help schools find international opportunities and teaching resources, including details about the British Council International School Award. Any school can find out how to apply by visiting <http://schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org>

The **British Council** is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We create international opportunities for the people of the UK and other countries and build trust between them worldwide.

We work in more than 100 countries and our 8,000 staff – including 2,000 teachers – work with thousands of professionals and policy makers and millions of young people every year by teaching English, sharing the arts and delivering education and society programmes.

We are a UK charity governed by Royal Charter. A core publicly-funded grant provides 20 per cent of our turnover which last year was £864 million. The rest of our revenues are earned from services which customers around the world pay for, such as English classes and taking UK examinations, and also through education and development contracts and from partnerships with public and private organisations. All our work is in pursuit of our charitable purpose and supports prosperity and security for the UK and globally.

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