



CONNECTING CLASSROOMS

through Global Learning

PARTNERSHIPS GUIDE

Updated April 2020

International School Partnerships

There's no more authentic way for pupils to learn about global issues than by working with their peers in another country. Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning can help UK-based schools find partner schools in more than 30 countries across Africa, the Middle East and South Asia.

Once you've made a connection we have a range of support to help you get started and build a strong and sustainable school partnership, including the [best online platforms](#) to use for your international school collaboration.

We can also help you connect with other UK schools via a Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning cluster group. This way you can opt to work together to build links with schools in other countries.



Working with your partner

Schools can work together in a virtual capacity to collaborate on simple projects themed on the United Nations Global Goals for Sustainable Development. They can also share experiences and methods of teaching.

We have created a range of [innovative project ideas](#) that can be used by schools working virtually and are compatible with the aims of the programme.

We offer a range of funding opportunities for schools to support their partnership work. Funding is available for training, projects and supply cover as well as other activities. Further details are available on page 7 of this guidance. Due to global travel restrictions, it is not currently possible to travel to visit partner schools. Many schools choose to work together using online communication without ever visiting their partner and have very successful partnerships. However, if you are still interested in travelling to visit a partner school in future, you can indicate this in your funding application, as it may be possible to disburse funds for travel once restrictions are lifted.

At present, only cluster groups are eligible to apply for our funding. Cluster groups can include a mix of primary and secondary schools. There's no limit to the number of schools taking part. However, as a minimum there should be at least four schools involved, one of which must be from a participating country outside the UK.



How to join a cluster partnership

There are several ways to get involved in a cluster partnership. You can:

- start your own cluster partnership, or
 - find out whether there is an existing cluster partnership that you can join.
1. As a first step, particularly if you are new to global learning, we recommend speaking to a local advisor. They can advise on how to start up and manage your own virtual partnership and get the most impact out of your cluster collaboration. They may also be able to help you find and join a cluster partnership in your local area. For further details on how to get in touch with a local advisor, go to [‘help and support section’](#) on our website.
 2. Once you are ready you can also use our [Partner Finder tool](#) to search for other schools in the UK and participating countries that may be interested in collaborating. We aim to make it as easy as possible for you to find participating schools outside the UK to collaborate with, so if you prefer, please get in touch with us at schools@britishcouncil.org and we will do our best to find you a suitable partner.

Note: Schools wishing to apply with a country in the MENA region should contact Schools@britishcouncil.org in advance of submitting an application.



Managing the cluster

All clusters must be managed by a single point of contact — a UK cluster coordinator. It is expected that this role will be filled by a teacher at the lead UK school. However, suitable parts of the role could be delegated.

Clusters can include schools with a range of experience of international collaboration. Our definitions are:

Lead school	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be in the UK.• Leads the application process and manages any grant funding received.• Has strong experience working with international partner schools and of global learning.• Has a role in coordinating the activities within the virtual partnership.
Partner school	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ideally, has some previous experience of global learning and/or international partnership working.
Network school	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Possibly new to international partnership work.• Keen to learn from lead and partner schools and start building global learning education.



An example

Calstock Primary school in Cornwall submitted the very first completely virtual partnerships grant application at the 27th January 2020 deadline – a partnerships grant without any travel element.

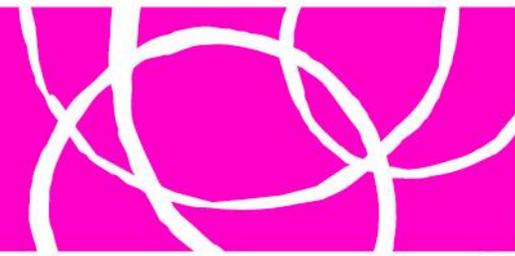
The school, alongside their federation partner, contacted the British Council and an introduction was made to two schools in Egypt. The absence of a pre-existing, long-term partnership meant that building a relationship and keeping engagement high was an issue. The school did not feel confident in arranging a visit but wanted to quickly start cooperating on a significant joint project.

“A virtual partnership gave us a chance to get going quickly, keep the partners engaged and then develop the relationship for a later visit and other activities” John Pengelly, International Coordinator

The partnership will explore SDG14 – Life Below Water, in particular the changes to the marine environment over time as a result of human activity. The pupils will share their findings and collaborate on an action plan via email and Skype, developing research skills, an appreciation of different cultural perspectives and gain experience of presenting information to their own classes in-person and to overseas partners remotely, which are obviously increasingly valuable skills in life and the modern workplace.

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CCGL Cluster partnerships offer – the journey

STEP 1

Find 2 or more partner schools in the UK.

STEP 2

Find one or more partner schools overseas.
Work with existing international partners, or we'll help you to find some!

STEP 3

You've now formed an international school cluster!

STEP 6

Apply for funding to bring your project(s) to life!
What's on offer? See below.

STEP 5

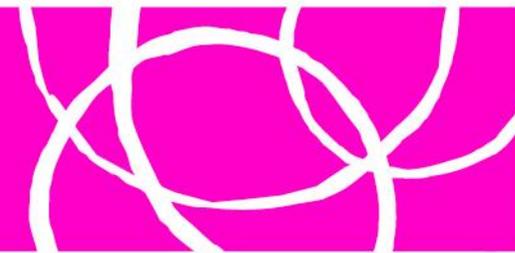
Decide on your project or projects and plan your activities.
Start collaborating!

STEP 4

Decide which school is going to lead the cluster.

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What's on offer

£500 TO SUPPORT A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

Larger clusters can receive funding for up to two projects.

£250 FOR A SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENT

Larger clusters can receive funding for up to two events.

Up to £200 PER DAY FOR SUB COVER

Between 3-7 days are available for lead schools.

£100-£250 PER UK SCHOOL FOR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

More experienced schools in partnerships can apply for £100; less experienced schools, which are not yet ready to establish their own international partnerships, can receive up to £250, which can be used for sub cover.

OVER 3 DAYS OF SUPPORT FROM YOUR LOCAL ADVISER



Support available

- [Classroom resources](#) have been created to make it easier for partners to get to know each other and start working together. These are designed around themes connected to the United Nations Global Goal for Sustainable Development and include interactive challenges which schools can complete together.
- [Training and continuous professional development](#) is available free of charge for teachers and school leaders on working in partnership, global learning, transferable skills and inclusive education.
- Resource with best online [Communications](#) tools available to schools. This document gives you a list of the variety of online platforms that you can use to collaborate with your partner schools
- Local Advisors – The local advisors all have first-hand experience of leading global learning in schools and can support you to assess your current situation and plan how to move forward. If you wish to talk to a Local Advisor, please go to [‘help and support section’](#) on our website.
- [Partnerships team](#) - you can get support by contacting the British Council directly, to talk through ideas or ask questions.

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Top tips

Step 1

Partner schools don't need to be in your local area networks – they can be from anywhere in the UK!

Whether you're just starting out, or more experienced and looking to progress an established school partnership, you can participate at a level which suits you and your setting.

Still not sure who to partner with? We are connected with schools all over the UK. Get in touch with us at schools@britishcouncil.org and let us know the themes or topics you're interested in exploring, and we'll match you up with suitable schools.

Step 2

Already have a partner school overseas? Fantastic! Check that they're from this [list of eligible CCGL countries](#).

Need help finding a partner school overseas? We're connected with schools in over 30 countries worldwide. Contact us and we'll help you find a partner.

We recognise that schools in clusters will have different levels of experience. Don't worry if some schools aren't ready to establish their own international partnerships. They can still participate in all activities and receive up to £250 each for professional development.

Step 3

Well done on getting this far!

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Step 4

The cluster will appoint a lead school based in the UK, which will coordinate cluster activities and training and submit the funding application. This is a key role, and does bring additional responsibilities, but the lead school can delegate to other schools in the cluster. Also, the Local Advisor is on hand to support the lead school and wider cluster at every stage. You're not on your own!

Step 5

Start small. Your partnership project should have genuine educational aims, but projects can be small in scale and impactful. Longer, more ambitious projects can be transformational, yes, but they also have greater potential not to get finished! Whatever global issue you decide to focus on – whether the project is big or small – make sure that it's realistic and achievable. For new schools partnerships, check out our Getting to know you challenge, which is designed to help partner schools introduce themselves and develop an understanding of the similarities and differences between schools and localities.

Need inspiration? Download one of our free classroom resources, themed around the Global Goals for Sustainable Development . The templates can be used flexibly across a range of subject areas. Pull out individual lesson plans or activities to fit around your timetable or use one of the templates to run a project across a school term.

Communicating between time zones and busy work schedules can be challenging, but there are lots of options. Email, Skype, social media, WhatsApp, text and post, have been used by clusters across the world to support successful partnerships. Have a look at our guide on the best online platforms to use for your international schools collaboration. Regular, timely and clear communication throughout the partnership's lifetime is essential, especially when face-to-face visits are unavailable.

Whether your partnership is longstanding or brand-new, large or small, a partnership agreement between all participating schools will help with planning activities, setting out roles and responsibilities of the participants, and defining the overall objectives of the partnership.

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Step 6
There is a flexible menu of funding options available to support your cluster – see above! Remember, the Partnerships team or your Local Adviser are on hand to help you with the application.

Making an application

After clearly identifying the objectives and plans of the cluster, the cluster coordinator should submit an application for grant funding that encompasses all their planned Connecting Classrooms engagement.

While led by the UK Cluster Coordinator, applications must be completed as a joint endeavor between UK and overseas participating schools. We expect to see strong evidence of collaboration and joint working.

Funding for international travel to undertake reciprocal school visits is not currently available. However, if your partnership's plans for the future include reciprocal visits funded by the Connecting Classrooms grant, please do complete the relevant sections of the application form. If your application is successful, it may be possible to disburse funds for international travel at a later date, without the need for you to submit a re-application.

Please refer to [Applying for funding](#) section of the website where you will find all information relating to the application process including:

1. What the funding is for
2. How to put an application together
3. [Deadlines](#) and submission link

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Partnerships Journey

