

Worldwise School Linking Partnership Agreement between Raghudevapur Elokeshi Aikatan Balika Vidyalaya, John Scottus School Dublin, Bratachari Vidyasram School and Loreto Day School, Sealdah. 16/10/2009

Our **shared vision** is that the project will bring our school communities into closer contact thus encouraging greater understanding, mutual respect, friendship and good educational outcomes. (teaching – learning process)

The **main focus** of the project is on educational outcomes for all participants and the community at large.

Our **concentration** will be on the twin themes of gender equality and human rights.

Students will be the primary resource in investigating both themes; i.e. we will start in the classroom. We will then study the UN Charter of Human Rights and reflect on these issues in our homes and wider local community.

We intend that the **educational outcomes** will support mutual respect between learners through regular communication and discussion between the three schools culminating in meetings over a two day period during the week of 25th January 2010 in Bratachari School, Kolkata, India.

This conference of the three schools will reflect the theme of gender inequality/equality in as real away as possible through use of drama and displays and the next stage is to spread this into the local communities with the aim of addressing issues and bringing about change.

Example: Coco games in Bratachari where initially girls had to wear saris but shorts have now become the norm. Initially girls could only wear shorts without boys within range but now it is accepted. JSS girls still have to wear skirts for sports. They feel they should be allowed wear shorts.

Timeline: We begin immediately with study and reflection of the issues around the themes communicating as best we can, using email and possibly Skype and/ or posting art work back and forth.

We meet in the week of 25th January (date to be confirmed.....depends on Bengali State examination schedule and may have to be a week later) for a two day conference in Bratachari Vidyasram to decide how to carry our reflections to the wider communities of school, home, locality and nation. After February we will communicate regularly on these matters and how effective/ineffective they are.

Values and Principles

Schools values and principles are the same. The spreading of the real meaning of education – enlightening the base of mind, universal brotherhood, love and fellow feeling.

Complementary Nature.

During the visit of JSS in Kolkata all the three schools will occupy the same platform with the students, teachers and parents (guardians).

There are **no non-negotiable issues** between the schools which could affect the project.

Mutual Trust and Respect.

The two day contact meeting, email and Skype will certainly establish the respect and trust in between the three schools and the Worldwide team. There will be little change of breakdown because the relationship goes back to 2003 with Raghundevpur Elokeshi Aikatan Balika Vidyalaya School and to 2006 with the Bratachari Vidyasram School.

Sustainability

Involving the parents, teachers and students the schools will be able to make the project fruitful and sustainable. The relationship started in 2003 and the plan is a long term one,

Inclusiveness and Equality

As the project themes are global, so inclusion of the marginalised members of the community will take place. It is intended that each school develops its influence locally and nationally by opening up its facilities and its talents to the wider community.

Obligations and Responsibilities.

The schools will collect students and get them informed about the issues. Times will be arranged within and without school times (particularly because of the time differences)

Monitoring and Evaluation

The four linking teachers, Sr Cyril Mooney, Ashit Ghosh, Gargi Mukherjee and John Alexander and other project team teachers will look after monitoring and evaluation using regular contact by telephone and email.

Financially there may be a need for some fund-raising, as we have already overspent the travel allowance and there may need to be more funding for IT in two of the Indian schools.

Reporting

At end of year we will report to the national media, newspaper (educational supplements) and TV (RTE, Kolkata TV etc.) with a view to publicising the interactive benefit to young people and the communities from which they spring of such an international school linking experiment as this.

