



# WORLDWISE

## Quick Guide to Partner-Finding

### Before you start...

1. Be clear why you want to link with a partner school; think about why another school might want to link with yours; be prepared to discuss this in detail with potential partners.
2. Prepare a short, clear and accurate description of your school and your reasons for wanting to link with a partner school. This description may be used to help you find an appropriate partner, so be as honest as possible.

### Where to look...

#### ***Personal connections***

- Do you have a colleague/friend/relative who has lived and worked overseas? Do they have connections that could help to find a partner school?
- Staff and students in your own school may also have personal contacts with a suitable partner school.

#### ***Local/Community connections***

- Some towns/regions have established links or are twinned with a particular town/region in Africa, Asia or Latin America. Find out what community links already exist, and if this may help you in finding a partner school.
- What about local Diaspora groups in your area? There is a wealth of expertise and knowledge in Ireland's new communities. Perhaps you will find that you will forge valuable links closer to home, before you start looking for an overseas partner.
- Does your parish or local faith group have connections with communities overseas?
- Is your school part of a religious network that has pre-existing sister/brother schools overseas?
- Do other schools in your area have a partner school? If so, their partner schools may know of a potential school for you to link with.

#### ***Internet***

- On the Global Gateway ([www.globalgateway.org](http://www.globalgateway.org)) you can register your school's profile and browse other schools to find a partner that you think might be suitable.

#### ***Non-Governmental Organisations***

- Are there any NGOs working in your area that may also work with schools overseas? If you find a partner school through such an NGO, will it be an independent partnership or will it form part of that organisation's work?
- There are several twinning organisations operating in Ireland that link schools as well as broader communities with partners overseas. Have a look at our website for some initial ideas about such organisations [www.irishaid.gov.ie/worldwise](http://www.irishaid.gov.ie/worldwise).

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