

Community Cohesion Standards for Schools

In the guidelines for Community Cohesion Standards for Schools, under 'access to learning' - linking is specifically mentioned:

'Schools have established twinning arrangements with other schools and communities to promote inter-cultural learning'.

Information below outlines how school linking can help schools cover the four strategic aims relating to relevant objectives. For full list of objectives see www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/pdf/commcohesion.pdf

1. Close the attainment and achievement gap.

- The different teaching styles and experiential learning can help to raise attainment of lower achieving pupils.
- New experiences and making new friends generates new found confidences also helps to raise attainment amongst pupils.

2. Develop common values of citizenship based on dialogue, mutual respect and acceptance of diversity.

- Activities and methodologies on this web site promote the development of inter-personal skills and the use of dialogue (e.g. P4C). The content of many of the activities encourages an appreciation of diversity and challenges prejudice, bias and stereotype.
- Links can involve pupils exploring their own community and encouraging them to get involved.
- Links can also provide the opportunity for staff and governors to explore new opportunities for developing common values of citizenship at their school.

3. Contribute to building good community relations and challenge all types of discrimination and inequality.

- School links can provide opportunities for staff and governors to gain the knowledge and understanding needed to promote good community relations and challenge discrimination.
- School links can highlight training requirements of staff and governors on their responsibilities under relevant legislation.
- A school link can also be a valuable tool in taking positive steps to promote good community relations.
- Note: partnership arrangements should be conducted in line with the school's equality policies.

4. Remove the barriers to access, participation, progression, attainment and achievement.

- Where it has not been possible for the staff profile to represent the diversity of the British Society, a school link can potentially be a way of providing this diversity.
- A link through the use of activities that explore identity and diversity can be part of a strategy to remove the above barriers by improving mutual understanding between pupils from different social and ethnic groups and between teachers and their pupils.