

Highlight of the year - Launch of the Dhaka to Dundee Project Teachers' Pack

The coming to fruition of the “Dhaka to Dundee” project was marked in November by the launch of the Teachers' Pack in Verdant Works. This very successful event attracted 22 teachers and others.



The project uses the history of Dundee's jute trade as a focus for exploring current issues of social justice in India and Bangladesh, the very countries where jute was, and still is, grown. The resulting pack of classroom activities is written by teachers who have tried out all the materials with upper primary/early secondary pupils over the last two years. At the launch, teachers involved in the project described how they went about planning the topic, implementing the activities and evaluating the impact which the work had on their pupils.

After using the pack one teacher commented, ***“I think that the children's attitudes became more informed; they were able to think about their lives and put themselves ‘in someone else's shoes’. The children were deeply engaged with the project which allowed for deeper understanding”.***

There were benefits for teachers too. One said, ***“I feel much more confident in teaching global issues to children”***, while another said that teachers' confidence at her school had been ***“helped by the pack – it was adjustable and well-resourced. Confidence benefits from good resources.”***

This work was funded for three years by the Department for International Development (DfID).

The Teachers' Pack is now available via GLOW (the Scottish schools' intranet) or contact the One World Centre if you would like to receive a copy on CD.

The Global Learning Project

In 2010 the Department for International Development (DfID) awarded a substantial 3-year grant for the Global Learning Project (GLP) to embed development education in Scotland – a significant endorsement of the work of the International Development Education Association, Scotland (IDEAS). In schools and universities this area of work is now usually referred to as Global Citizenship.

The GLP provides the framework for embedding Global Citizenship as a cross-curricular theme in the new Curriculum for Excellence. There are three focal points (Hubs): Initial Teacher Education (ITE) – lecturers and student teachers; Continuing Professional Development (CPD) – practising teachers; Whole School Initiatives – what it says!

All six Development Education Centres (DECs) in Scotland are involved in the Project and work together closely in the DEC Consortium to develop and put into practice the coherent and measurable strategy which underpins everything. This sometimes means working outside my usual patch (Dundee, Angus, Perth & Kinross and Fife) with sessions as far afield as Inverness, Callendar and Edinburgh. This year the nature of the work has been varied: from classroom sessions introducing fair trade to primary one pupils, to whole day sessions with teachers on planning and evaluating global citizenship across the curriculum.



How will we know the Global Learning Project is working?

This year has seen considerable time spent by the DECs developing a strategic plan to work with partners in the GLP around CPD and Whole School Initiatives. Six potential ‘models of change’ have been identified and will be worked up over the next two years by DECs working with teachers and others. These are being designed to provide evidence of impact on both teachers and

pupils, especially around teachers' confidence and the values and attitudes of children and young people. Two exciting new resources produced by Scotdec, ('A' Adam's Bairns?' and 'Failte Malawi') along with our own 'Dhaka to Dundee' pack will provide a focus for much of this work over the next two years.

We have also had meetings with the Education Officer and teachers in Fife regarding our input into a project run by Dundee University. This project will work with a small selection of primary schools, exploring their development of the Curriculum for Excellence using global citizenship as a context for interdisciplinary learning, and measuring 'soft' outcomes such as empathy and self-esteem in children



Initial Teacher Education (ITE)

Developing a strategy with regard to student teachers' practice in relation to children's learning of global citizenship has been the focus of work with colleagues and ITE practitioners through the ITE Hub of the Global Learning Project:

- At Dundee University, two workshops in October with third year B.Ed students and Post Graduate Diploma in Education Students
- At Stirling University, work with two lecturers and their third year students; after input on what global citizenship is and why it is important the students worked in groups to plan their own interdisciplinary project for upper primary pupils. They then show-cased this to their peers, an invited audience of local head teachers and HMIE.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for teachers in Dundee, Perth & Kinross, Angus, Fife and beyond

The following CPD sessions took place this academic year –

- Twilight sessions on an Introduction to Global Citizenship at (Kinghorn PS) and Children's Rights (Fair Isle PS)

- Short presentations to the Modern Studies and Geography Principal Teachers' Networks in Dundee.
- Two conferences for nursery and secondary teachers in Coatbridge.

The formula for this, repeated in other areas, is already showing that, with regard to global citizenship, teachers' knowledge, skills and confidence are growing.



Direct work with pupils

Teachers still value the input from visitors to work with their pupils for short classroom sessions, especially as many schools run specific weeks with a special global citizenship focus. Such sessions very often lead to opportunities for working with teachers to incorporate the global dimension across the school. I led ten such sessions this year on a variety of topics from food to floods! Helen (and student Kerry) undertook most of the sessions around fair trade (see Helen's report). A particular highlight for me was the Enterprise Day in March at Brechin HS for all its cluster primary seven pupils. This was a very active day which involved the children playing the Marketplace Game, making cocoa-farmer puppets & learning a Fairtrade song (luckily led by someone other than me!) and decorating Fairtrade cotton bunting. Although messy, great fun was had by all!

(Editor's note: Brechin HS has nominated Sally for a Partnership Excellence Award)

General teacher support

This varies from responding to emails with suggestions of suitable resources for particular topics to mentoring teachers responsible for whole-school global citizenship implementation. It is very difficult to measure the effectiveness or long-term impact of this core part of my work, as often the results will take years to come to fruition! Yet it is by providing such support that the global citizenship message is nurtured in individual teachers and subsequently spread to others. The Global Learning Project has grown out of such work with teachers in the past.

WORK WITH PUPILS AND TEACHERS



PUPILS AT
CARLETON PRIMARY
LEARN ABOUT
CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



A FAIR TRADE DAY AT
BRECHIN HIGH WITH
PUPPETS OF COCOA
FARMERS-below right



TWILIGHT SESSION AT
FAIR ISLE PRIMARY IN
KIRKCALDY

Global School Partnerships (GSP)

This UK wide programme is funded by DfID and managed by a consortium which includes the British Council. To help teachers build sustainable, educational, equity-based partnerships with schools in the global South, Scottish DEC's agreed to co-facilitate workshops with GSP staff. This arrangement works well as GSP staff have in-depth knowledge and experience of how partnerships work in practice and DEC staff have a wide knowledge of curriculum opportunities for partnership working and of suitable classroom resources. Between November and March I have worked with GSP colleagues to co-facilitate:

- a one-day workshop on 'Building Effective Partnerships' at Auchterderran, Fife
- 'Introducing Global School Partnerships' in Edinburgh.
- A similar introductory workshop in Callendar

I have also attended a session which should allow me to lead training with teachers on how to apply for GSP grants for their schools and acted as an observer at a session on Global Education in Partnership in Inverness.

Fair trade in schools

Many schools are working towards the Fairtrade Foundation's Fairtrade School Award.



- The Fair Trade Teacher Network has gone from strength to strength this year, and our last meeting (at Seaview PS) attracted 22 teachers!
- 44 teachers attended a workshop day at Discovery Point in November run by the Fairtrade Foundation.
- We are working with Aberfeldy Fairtrade Town Steering Group on a project with six schools in Highland Perthshire.

Seeds for Learning resources database

All the work of IDEAS is supported by resources which are available for loan from the DEC, and can be bought online from Scotdec. This year has seen the long-awaited launch of the Seeds for Learning website – a database of all these resources. With over 2000 titles featured, the website (www.seedsforlearning.org.uk) is very attractive and allows teachers to browse resources by theme, level, subject or curriculum area. Although the system is not perfect, it should make it easier for teachers to see what is available from their local DEC, and more efficient for us to keep track of resources and borrowers.

To end on a high note...

I led a workshop on 'Dealing with Controversial Issues' at the Sustainable Development Education Network Conference, Edinburgh on 31st March, which was described to me afterwards by a head teacher as the best workshop he had ever been at. I must be doing something right!!

Sally Romilly
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