**Inverkip Primary Case Study**

* **How did your school partnership begin?**

In 2007, several officials from Inverclyde Council’s Education Department visited Chiradzulu district in Malawi to set up a partnership programme with various schools there.

On their return, Inverkip Primary applied to become a partner school and was linked with Malavi Primary.

* **What have been the benefits for your school?**

The benefits for Inverkip Primary have been many –

1. Global citizenship
2. Identifying with actual people and an actual place
3. Opportunities to learn about the country of Malawi, customs, culture etc.
4. Reciprocal visits –partnership has become more personal
5. Shared educational projects –renewable energy; enterprise.
6. Involvement of the Inverkip community to raise awareness and funds- Bag nights at local hotel; Concerts in local venues.
7. Parental involvement – class and school assemblies; Malawian art exhibition; awareness of partnership at beginning – school meetings; school events to meet Malawian teachers during visits.

* **What do you think have been the benefits for your Malawian partner school?**

1. Electricity through the installation of solar panels in conjunction with Strathclyde University.
2. Enterprise projects – charging mobile phones; chickens.
3. New building –library; head teacher’s office and staffroom.
4. New toilets
5. Restoration of other school buildings to make more secure and upgrading of teachers’ houses
6. Mosquito nets for orphaned children
7. Feeding programme when WHO programme ceased
8. Set up of Inverclyde Communications team in Malawi – three team members are paid annually to make regular visits to all schools in Chiradzulu district and report back news.

* **What has been the highlight of your partnership for the school?**

1. Reciprocal visits -3 to Malawi and 2 to Scotland
2. Electricity –the lights being on at Malavi. This project was made possible by the uncle of one of our pupils. He worked for Strathclyde University and was living out in Malawi at the time when he heard of our partnership. Strathclyde Uni was working with the Polytechnic in Blantyre and took on Malavi as one of their schools.

* **What have been the challenges and how have you overcome them?**

1. Communication –cost of sending packages and length of time taken; emails being unreliable.
2. Have overcome this to some extent by purchasing smart phones for each school and using What’s App. This allows for almost instant communication through text, photos and video/audio clips.
3. Setup of Communications team –much more contact on a regular basis from all linked schools.

* **Looking at the SMP Partnership Principles, which areas do you think are the strengths of your partnership?**

1. Respect, trust and mutual understanding –this has come from reciprocal visits. Within the Communications team, two of the members are from Malavi Primary.
2. Appropriateness – global citizenship, Rights Respecting Schools and Fairtrade. These current focusses in Scottish education link in so well with our Malawi Partnership and bring them to life.
3. Do no harm – benefiting local economy by using local builders etc. for building works needing done; raised profile of Malavi School in local area – local MP and Education Minister came to the opening of new school building; electricity –allows older children to study at night in library; buying of chickens to rear and sell eggs as enterprise/micro-finance; training of teaching staff on gender equality.

* **Which Principle(s) do you think your partnership is working on but could be improved and how can they be improved?**

1. Reciprocity – we currently celebrate Malawi Day annually where we fundraise and teach about Malawi –food, culture, customs, language etc.

Our plan for the forthcoming year is to create resources for Malavi School to enable them to hold a Scotland Day. We envisage each class at Inverkip being involved and creating resources, lessons for children of their age at Malavi.

* **If you were starting the partnership over again, what advice would you give yourself?**

1. Communication is key. If at all possible, aim for reciprocal visits because it builds trust; makes it personal and gives authenticity to the partnership.

* **What do you think makes a good partnership?**

1. Needs to be worked at –hard work with HT and all staff on board.
2. Good communication –smart phones, What’s app, communication team.
3. Getting both communities involved.
4. Reacting to situations – (e.g.) food shortage – purchasing maize to feed children at school.
5. Constant reviewing and monitoring.

* **What would you say to encourage other teachers to get involved?**

1. Be prepared for hard work and to be in it for the long term.
2. Try and get communication up and running as soon as possible.
3. Use other schools with partners and ask for advice.
4. Use SMP and help they can give.
5. Get hold of the Scotdec resource “Failte Malawi” for use in schools.
6. Don’t give up!

* **Why do you think it’s important to continue links between Scotland and Malawi?**

1. Historical links between the countries
2. Global partnership idea
3. Benefits to schools from the partnership

* **Where do you see your partnership developing from here?**

1. Development of projects that can be shared between schools
2. Development of resources to hold a “Scotland Day” in Malawi.
3. Continuation of “Malawi Days” at Inverkip Primary.
4. Fundraising on annual basis.
5. Continuation of use of What’s app and keeping Inverkip School and community up-to-date with Malavi news.
6. Regular meetings with other Inverclyde schools who have Malawi partnership.

* **How have the SMP supported you so far?**

1. Help and advice for reciprocal visits
2. Visit to school on “Malawi Day” to highlight school partnership.
3. Attendance at AGMs to allows you to meet others with partnerships and to get ideas.
4. Use of website for ideas.

* **What could the SMP do to support you going forward?**

1. To allow us to meet with schools from around Scotland who have established long-term partnerships to get new ideas.

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