



Schools Linking: Introduction

Thank you very much for your interest in African Revival's Schools Linking Programme – we are very proud of this programme and genuinely believe it can bring great benefits, to schools both in the UK, and in Uganda.

We have run the linking programme successfully over the last 10 years, with many school partnerships still flourishing and involving generations of students, teachers and parents as time goes on. In 2015, we updated and re-packaged the programme, to better reflect our ethos of equal partnerships and sustainable development. All schools are now able to access and download support materials straight from our website (www.africanrevival.org) including lesson plans, assemblies, sponsorship forms and fundraising ideas.

The idea behind the programme is that African Revival acts as a facilitator, linking your school with one of our partner schools in either Uganda or Zambia. As a small organisation, these partnerships are very important to us, and we are in a position to link your school to one that fits you, rather than just partner you with any school. We do this by putting together profiles about our partner schools in all countries, to make sure that the match is a good one, and that both schools have something to offer the other – we strive for equal partnerships where both schools involved may benefit. This also means your contact with us will be bespoke, and you will always have a personal contact at African Revival who you can come to for support.

Aims and Objectives

We believe that any school linking partnership should be based on a mutually beneficial arrangement, whereby the students are the main beneficiaries. The aim of the school linking programme is that:

- Students in both schools will have an increased understanding of global issues and respect for their peers from different backgrounds around the world
- Students in both schools will increase their knowledge of global issues and so be able to take action on matters that affect them, both at school and in the wider global community
- Schools will be better able to engage with global issues, become more understanding of the views of children and be able to provide more rounded, more effective education
- Teachers will be able to integrate global issues and perspectives into lessons and activities
- Parents and the wider school communities involved will be supportive of the partnership and help students participate in learning and fundraising
- Both school communities will make a real contribution to the education and development of children in different countries to their own

Roles and Responsibilities

In order for the partnership to be fruitful, it is important that everyone involved is aware of their roles and responsibilities, and makes an effort to make them a reality.

- African Revival will help to match you with a partner school that shares your aims, and will be the main point of contact for any questions you may have with the linking programme. African Revival will support both schools in the establishment and maintenance of their link, and will help to ensure that there is a mutually beneficial relationship between both schools
- Both schools should encourage enthusiastic and equal participation from their wider school community, including students, staff, senior management, governors and parents.

- Students should seek to learn as much as possible from their partner school and partner students, and should be encouraged to give regular feedback and suggestions about what they find interesting and useful from the partnership
- Teachers should seek to include all students at their school in the link, and should seek to include learning activities relevant to the link school and country where possible
- The link teacher coordinator at each school should help to coordinate linking activities across their school, be in regular communication with their counterpart in Uganda to ensure continuity and sustainability and ensure their school is maintaining their side of the link in a timely and effective way
- Parents should seek to take part in community-wide linking events where possible, and help support their children in their participation in the link

Establishing the Link

- African Revival will collect information from both UK and Ugandan schools and use this to establish school partnerships whereby the two schools involved are a good fit for each other
- African Revival will send information about prospective partner school to the schools involved.
- Once both schools have indicated that they are happy with their chosen partner school, African Revival will put the link teacher coordinator at both schools in touch with each other, and support them to draw up a Partnership Agreement which will lay down the exact roles and responsibilities of specific individuals involved in the link, and will include agreed linking activities to be carried out by both schools
- Both schools sign the Partnership Agreement, facilitated by African Revival
- We ask that UK schools make a donation of £250 to African Revival towards the administration costs of their link per academic year

Linking Activities

The following activities are merely suggested ideas of what could be involved in your link. Please keep in mind that every partnership is bespoke and different, depending on the two school communities involved. Activities are also dependent on the resources that each school has at their disposal (many of our Uganda partner schools do not have access to a computer/internet for example). With that in mind, schools should select and agree on activities that will benefit both schools, and reflect their priorities for getting involved in the link.

- Lesson plans
- Assemblies
- Letter/e-mail exchanges
- Skype discussions/conversations
- Collaborative projects
- School fundraising (with reports and feedback)

Once both schools have agreed on linking activities, they should be recorded in the Partnership Agreement, along with a timetable of communication and the frequency of activities expected e.g. 2 lesson plans a term. We encourage schools to be open with each other throughout the link about what is working well, and not so well, and to update the Partnership Agreement once a year to reflect lessons learned on both sides.