

Schools Linking Project

September 2018 - 2019

Schools Linking takes as its starting point the need for us all to develop the skills of dialogue to be able to communicate across real or perceived boundaries and to develop a vocabulary of shared humanity.

Schools Linking is nationally recognised as offering a positive, age-appropriate curriculum response to SMSC, British values and the Prevent Duty. [The Linking Network](#) has been named in the Integrated Communities [Strategy Green Paper](#) which states: “*The programme provides sustained opportunities for children and young people from different communities to meet, build new relationships, work together and contribute to the wider community*”

This programme has received backing from the MHCLG (Ministry Housing Communities and Local Government) and the DfE (Department for Education) and Pears Foundation enabling [The Inclusion Support Service Kent \(ISSK\)](#) to facilitate linking between schools, offering 2 days free training, ongoing advice and support.

The Schools Linking Project 2018—19 aims to:

- ◆ Establish and sustain effective links between new and existing linking schools.
- ◆ Create social mixing opportunities with pupils and the wider community.
- ◆ Provide resources and training that supports schools to develop a positive cohesive ethos.

The Schools Linking Project 2018—19 will develop:

- ◆ Children’s knowledge and understanding of identity, identities, diversity, equality and community.
- ◆ Pupils’ skills of enquiry, critical thinking, reflection and communication.
- ◆ Pupils’ empathy alongside trust, awareness and respect of self and others.
- ◆ Opportunities for children and young people to meet, build new relationships, work together and contribute to wider communities.
- ◆ Opportunities for teachers to share good practice, increase understanding of the issues of identity and community in their districts and broaden perspectives.

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CLOSING DATE TO SUBMIT AN EXPRESS INTEREST JULY 9th 2018



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government



Department
for Education



The Linking
Network



Kent
County
Council
kent.gov.uk



What does this involve?

Who?

- ◆ SMT must be committed to the project and sign a Service level Agreement to maintain linking throughout the year with their linking partner school.
- ◆ Teachers must be working with their own classes.
- ◆ Linking classes should be of the same age/year group and is open to Years 2, 3, 4 or 5
- ◆ ISSK Advisory Teachers will be available to advise, support and steer when needed.

How?

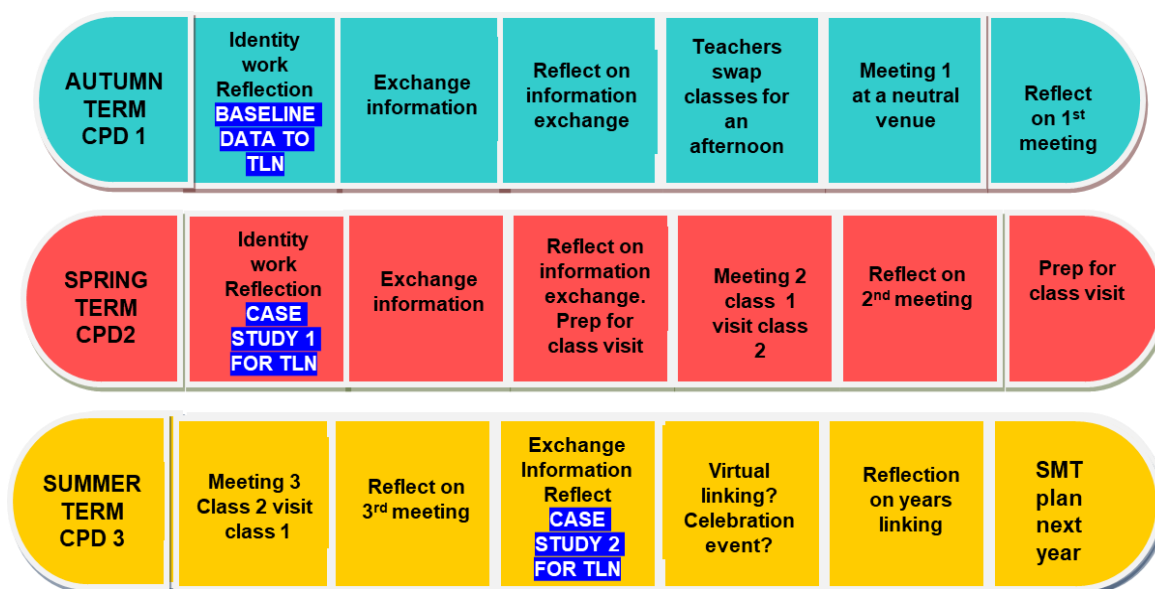
- ◆ There will be 2 FREE CPD training sessions , one in the autumn term another in the spring.
- ◆ Linking teachers are encouraged to swap classes one afternoon.
- ◆ Ideally, finances permitting, linking classes will initially meet at a neutral venue
- ◆ Linking classes will then visit each others schools.
- ◆ Regular contact between linking teachers is vital.
- ◆ There needs to be careful planning and purposeful reflections at each stage.
- ◆ Linking must be equitable.

What?

Linking classes will explore 4 questions in regard to the individual, class, school, local, national and global communities over the year:

- ◆ Who am I?
- ◆ Who are we?
- ◆ Where do we live?
- ◆ How do we live together?

When? An overview of the Linking year



What will the school's commitment involve?

- ◆ To provide The Linking Network with:
 - ⇒ anonymised baseline data for research purposes
 - ⇒ 2 case studies to evidence impact of the project over the year
- ◆ To cover costs of supply cover for CPD sessions, transport for all linking visits and any costs for the neutral venue