

Further information on Twinning with a school in The Gambia.

Primary Schools in The UK are increasingly expected to have a global dimension to their curriculum and pursue community cohesion and global citizenship. Using 3Ts services and successfully twinning with a Lower Basic School in The Gambia is an effective way of achieving this.

We have a wealth of experience of working with UK Primary Schools, understand their ways of working and the demands of the national curriculum. Through our work as Optimal Learning we have demonstrated our passion for teaching and learning and our commitment to children and childhood.

We also understand The Gambia, its education and it's people. We are regular visitors to The Gambia and Cheryl Barteczko - one of our team - has already successfully linked her school (Lounde Infants) to Jabang Lower School.

We currently have 3 project workers in The Gambia visiting schools and preparing them for Twinning. We will have visited all the schools by the end of June and we will have a steady stream of Gambian schools available for twinning from early March 2009. We are working with Lower Basic Schools (which serve children age 7 to 13 (Grades 1 to 6) and their associated Nurseries which serve children age 4 to 7.

To make this twinning successful we are offering a wide range of services, support and advice and a wealth of curriculum resources and ideas related to The Gambia for use at all levels (Foundation to Year 6, teachers, parents, governors and the wider community). A summary of the services we are offering is set out below.

To cover the costs of these services we will be making a charge of £250 in the first year and £100 each year thereafter. This represents tremendous value for money. We will be happy to refer you to sites that show that most twinning organisations are charging £500 or £600 and are not offering half of what 3T will be providing.

So if you are genuinely interested in twinning please complete the word form and fax it back to us.

What information would I receive if I was going to begin twinning with 3T?

Information about twinning and 3T

- What twinning is and what it isn't!
- Benefits for both groups of learners, staff, schools and communities (UK and The Gambia)- and guidance on where it sits in relation to OfSTED, ECM, Global citizenship, sustainable schools, NC, SEF
- Know where twinning will sit in the education system for the schools in The Gambia
- 3T's commitment, previous reputation, aims, structure, role, contact details
- Regular updated information about the organisation and wider developments in twinning , new developments and ideas
- Cost and what you will get for your money
- Pitfalls to be aware of eg cultural etiquette
- On-going support and advice from 3T

Initial support I would receive

- Finding an appropriate twinning partner
- Background information about the country
- Basic information about the education system, special celebrations and school holidays in The Gambia.

Information about the school and its locality

- Google Earth coordinates, photographs, address and contact details or information about effective lines of communication
- Size
- Age groups
- Staff names and details
- Catchment info eg % Muslim, Christians, Mandinkas, Fullers etc
- Curriculum
- School vision/ development plan
- Feeder schools

Clear lines of communication between the schools

- Telephone/mobile numbers

- Email address (if available)
- Postal addresses
- We will also be visiting Gambia and twinned schools and so can arrange delivery of small parcels
- A wealth of curriculum resources to be used in a variety of areas

The Gambia box - a wealth of resources to be used in a variety of ways

- Fun and informative activities to be used with the children from Foundation to Year 6.
- Making traditional Gambian Jewellery
- Recycling waste containers to make toys
- Weaving
- Comparing and contrasting lifestyles
- Understanding the Gambian climate
- Maps of The Gambia
- Dressing a Gambian family
- And many more resources

Need to end the twinning experience?

- In the event that you wish to end the twinning relationship we would enable this to take place in a mutually acceptable way.