



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AWARD

British Council International School Award success for St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Stanley has been awarded the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of its work to bring the world into the classroom.

The International School Award is a badge of honour for schools that do outstanding work in international education, such as through links with partner schools overseas. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need to live and work as global citizens.

St. Joseph's international work includes a variety of projects with our partners around the world. We have links with schools in Sri Lanka, Italy and New Zealand. Great care has been taken to plan a curriculum that allows us to explore and celebrate many other countries and cultures too. Our children have opportunities to Skype their friends in other parts of the world and exchange work, opinions and ideas on a variety of topics. Teachers also benefit and develop professionally, having the opportunity to exchange teaching ideas and resources with practitioners from other countries. Through our international work, our children and staff have become acutely aware of what it means to be global citizens and have great respect for the rights and responsibilities related to this.

On hearing the news that St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School had received the award, Mrs. McBride, Headteacher, said: *"The whole school is delighted to have gained this award. Everyone here at St. Joseph's is proud of being part of an exciting community that extends from within our school, into the local community and also into the wider community throughout the UK and all around the world. Through our International Work the children learn a great deal about different countries, languages and cultures. The direct contact with other schools around the world give the children a real insight into the different lives people lead and a greater understanding of the wonderful world we live in. A huge thank you to all the staff and children in school for their enthusiasm and commitment towards this achievement. A special thank you to Miss Peart and Miss McKenna, our International Schools Co-ordinators, for the impressive work they have undertaken"* a recognition echoed by the International School Award Team, British Council.

'Congratulations on working so hard to coordinate such an impressive range of work as the International Co-ordinators. You are a credit to the school and the wider community.' - International School Award Team.

Our school has embarked on an International Learning Journey, we have a passion for global education and this has a positive effect on all stakeholders. The Journey continues!

British Council Chief Executive, Sir Ciarán Devane, said:

'The school's fantastic international work has rightfully earned it this prestigious award. The International School Award is a great chance for schools to demonstrate the important work they're doing to bring the world into their classrooms. Adding an international dimension to children's education ensures that they are truly global citizens and helps prepare them for successful future careers in an increasingly global economy.'

International Development Secretary, Justine Greenin said:

"Young people must be at the heart of our work to create a safer and more prosperous world for everyone and we need to ensure their voices are heard if we are to win the fight against global poverty. That is why I am delighted to celebrate the international work of St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School and the energy and passion of the young people involved."

"The International School Award is a great way of highlighting how young people have the potential to change things for the better. I'm sure that schools getting involved will be broadening the horizons of their students, which will not only help their careers but benefit their wider lives in the future."

On behalf of the whole school, Miss Peart, Miss McKenna, Jack Bell (Head Boy) and Emily Morris (Head Girl) will attend a presentation ceremony on 13th October to officially receive our International School Award.

The news of the award coincided with a visit from four teachers from our partner schools in Sri Lanka. The school was 'decked out' with Sri Lankan flags and bunting and a display of art work by our children. Our visitors were greeted by a guard of honour as they approached school, with the children all lined up waving pom-poms in the Sri Lankan colours. The visitors were presented with posies of typical English flowers upon arrival and then proceeded to the school hall for a special 'show'. All classes performed something typically British;

Reception Class - If I were a Butterfly

Y1- Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes

Y2 - There was an Old lady who Swallowed a Fly

Y3 & Y4 - Yellow Submarine and Help (The Beatles)

Y5 - The Blaydon Races

Y6 - Rugby World Cup - World in Union

Our visitors then visited St Joseph's Catholic Church next door and when they returned they were served a Traditional British Afternoon Tea. They then spent the afternoon going around the classes working with the children.

A fantastic day for everyone.

Our visitors from Sri Lanka arriving and Mrs McBride with Jack and Emily waiting to present them with traditional English flowers



Children waving pom-poms in the colours of the Sri Lankan flag

Receiving gifts



A visit to church



Children learning about life in Sri Lanka

