

Having an established partnership with a primary school in India has been really inspiring. So much so that it has changed my entire outlook of primary education. I am now passionate about developing the global dimension within the curriculum, so much so that it became the focus of my dissertation for my Masters in Primary Education.

Working in a primary school in Tower Hamlets with an approximately 99% Bangladeshi majority I saw real benefits in establishing links with a school in India and working on projects together. Having a class partnership was a real learning experience, one which I have repeated in several year groups. The children were motivated and engaged and learned a whole host of new skills, plus I was enthused too. Learning suddenly became relevant and meaningful as the children had an audience to present to – far more exciting than the teacher! Visiting our partner school and hosting the teachers in return was the icing on the cake.

Beyond the classroom we also had several whole school projects which all contributed to the International School Award we received from the British Council last year. It was important to include everyone, from parents to catering staff for example (who organised several international themed menus).

Overall, it was hard work writing a thesis during the school year, nevertheless using my own class as a case study meant that I was continually reflecting and improving my practise as I went on. Time to take my learning to Hackney now as I prepare for my new job this September...

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