

Application for funding from Corsham Local Area Fund

Wiltshire Global Education Centre would like to apply for funding on behalf of a cluster of Corsham Primary schools to run a competition called 'Talking about Places Far Away.' This competition has been run very successfully with Key Stage 2 children in Gloucestershire annually but it will be the first time that it has been done in Wiltshire.

Background

Staff from 5 Corsham primary schools and one Corsham secondary school have recently been taking part in twilight training organised and delivered by Wiltshire Global Education Centre. As a result of this training, three of the schools have set up school links with schools in the Gambia, West Africa, and the other schools are hoping to do so in the near future. Part of that training involves schools developing a global ethos in their school in order to make the link strong and lasting and this competition will support that by engaging the children in a global issue of their choice.

How the competition works

- A group of up to 10 Key Stage 2 children is identified and asked to choose a global issue that they are concerned about. Guidance is usually needed for this but in the past, topics have ranged from Fairtrade, global warming, racism in football, reducing our carbon footprint, tourism and its effect on other countries, the Millennium Development Goals, and reducing world poverty. This in itself often leads to healthy debate amongst the children and at the School Council.
- Once the children have identified their topic, they are given class time to do some research and to put together a presentation for the competition. They are encouraged to make this lively and innovative – a song, rap, last year a Fairtrade fashion show(!), some drama.
- The children are supported by a day with a staff member from Wiltshire Global Education Centre who will spend a day in school with them, help them with the research and fill in any gaps in knowledge of their chosen subject as well as helping with the presentation.
- On the day of the competition, teams have 15 minutes to present to the other teams and the panel of 'experts', after which they answer questions from their audience. Judged on content, presentation, command of their topic and ability to answer questions, the highest scoring team will win a trip to London to visit their MP and discuss their global issue with him/her.

This has proved a hugely popular and exciting event with staff and children in Gloucestershire and we would love the opportunity to run it in Wiltshire between April and May 2012. The children not only learn more about important global issues but take responsibility from the onset, choosing their own topic, researching it and presenting it. They gain confidence in public debate and defending their arguments, critical thinking and presentation skills. The number of children affected is huge – experience shows that the debate in the School Council around the issue chosen will disseminate learning through the whole school and into the wider community through assemblies etc. For the winning team, the opportunity to visit their MP in the House of Commons is a fantastically valuable experience in itself but also instils in them at an early age the principles of active global citizenship and the idea that their views are valued and important. Research has shown that the sooner you can engage young people in global issues, the more likely they are to carry that into early adulthood and it can do much to combat the apathy of the teenage years!

In order to extend this opportunity to engage secondary students too, we are considering using a model which we have successfully piloted in Gloucestershire of using secondary school children to work with the primary children on their projects and/or running the event so that they too can benefit from what the children have learnt.

We would like to ask for £4205 to run this event – the breakdown of costs is below.

Budget

Supply costs for 6 schools for one day @£250 per day	£1500
WGEC costs 7 days at £200 per day	£1400
Venue and Catering at event – refreshments for 60 children plus 14 staff	£625
Transport costs and incidentals for London trip including 1 day teacher supply	£680
TOTAL	£4205

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CONSIDER THE SUPPLY COVER TO BE NECESSARY TO ENSURE ENGAGEMENT ON THE PART OF THE SCHOOLS. IT IS POSSIBLE BUT PERHAPS UNLIKELY THAT SCHOOLS WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE PART WITHOUT SUPPLY COVER.

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