



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AWARD

Press release

July 2020

British Council International School Award success for **Stockport School**

Stockport School in Greater Manchester 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 celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education. 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 for life work in today's world.

The British Council, stated it is clearly evident that Stockport School meets all of the success criteria of the International School Award, and it is now a pleasure to recommend Stockport School for the Reaccreditation Level of the International School Award.

It is clear that Stockport School has continued to develop and embed the international dimension across the school since its last accreditation in 2014. Stockport School has provided an informative, chronological summary of international activity since that time and has adopted an approach where international issues and themes are explored through cross curricular topics, innovative programmes, special events, assemblies and collaborative projects with schools in a variety of countries. Stockport School's commitment to the ongoing development of the international dimension is further emphasised by the thoughtful and varied range of international activities. The activities include opportunities for collaboration with partner schools, language learning, professional development and consideration of global themes and issues. The school's usage of International Student Ambassadors is innovative and it is envisaged that this group will evolve to take a formal role in the planning, implementation, review and dissemination of future international projects.

Stockport School's teachers clearly embrace the international dimension and have gained the confidence to try new things and adapt their teaching strategies from seeing projects in action. The "International Schools" working group and high profile of international education within the School Development Plan ensures that exciting and creative events, initiatives and activities are taking place.

Stockport School's pupils have a raised awareness of other countries, cultures and global themes. In particular, the many student quotations about international activities reveal increased maturity and enthusiasm for discovering more about the world around them, and this is clearly having an impact on engagement levels and standards.

The school's community is clearly supportive of international learning activities and it seems that the school's events stimulate community participation and approval, with the possibility that there is a greater acceptance of diversity. This is particularly relevant with regard to attitudes towards refugees. With this enthusiasm there may well be opportunities for engaging a wider range of local organisations that could support your initiatives, or contribute expertise towards events and activities. Consequently, it may be possible that an audit of parent and community skills and expertise might provide some usable resources to enhance future projects.

Stockport School clearly fulfils its ambassadorial role through its actions in connection with its Dubai partner and through the activities of their Teacher International Ambassadors who have given presentations and support to local schools.

The school's plans for sustainability involve expansion of the Ambassador scheme, the development of new partnerships, staff visits to Spain and Ghana to create further curriculum enrichment, and improvements to the school website by the inclusion of a designated "International" area. All this will almost certainly deepen the international character and ethos of the school and its wider community.

The British Council would like to congratulate Stockport School on embedding the international dimension so effectively into its school and wishes the School continued success in the future. Well done!

On hearing the news that Stockport School had received the award, Mr Ian Irwin, Headteacher said: *"As a school we are delighted to have been successfully reaccredited with the prestigious International School Award for 2020-2023, by the British Council in recognition of our work to bring the world into the classroom."*

The International School Award celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education. 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 for life and for work in today's world, this is something that we embrace as part of our ethos and values at Stockport School."

Sir Ciarán Devane, CEO of the British Council, 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. Embedding an international dimension in children's education ensures that they are truly global citizens and helps prepare them for successful lives and careers in an increasingly global economy."*

The award is now available worldwide in countries such as India, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Lebanon, Cyprus, and Pakistan. Around 5,500 International School Awards have been presented to successful schools in the UK since the scheme began in 1999.

The International School Award encourages and supports schools to develop:

- An international ethos embedded throughout the school
- A whole school approach to international work
- Collaborative curriculum-based work with a number of partner schools
- Year-round international activity
- Involvement of the wider community

Further information

To interview the school or for images, please contact the Headteacher at headteacher@stockport.stockport.sch.uk

For more information about the International School Award, please contact our team at schools@britishcouncil.org

Notes to Editors:

The **British Council International School Award** started in 1999 to recognise the schools leading the way in instilling and developing a global dimension into the learning experience of all children and young people. It is managed by the British Council.

British Council Schools Online is a supportive 'one stop shop' to help schools find international opportunities and teaching resources, including details about the British Council International School Award. Any school can find out how to apply by visiting <http://schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org>

The **British Council** is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We create international opportunities for the people of the UK and other countries and build trust between them worldwide.

We work in more than 100 countries and our 8,000 staff – including 2,000 teachers – work with thousands of professionals and policy makers and millions of young people every year by teaching English, sharing the arts and delivering education and society programmes.

We are a UK charity governed by Royal Charter. A core publicly-funded grant provides 20 per cent of our turnover which last year was £864 million. The rest of our revenues are earned from services which customers around the world pay for, such as English classes and taking UK examinations, and also through education and development contracts and from partnerships with public and private organisations. All our work is in pursuit of our charitable purpose and supports prosperity and security for the UK and globally.

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