

Simple Ideas for International Engagement

There is a strong evidence base that any form of international activity engages learners and improves their performance.

Start by thinking how you will share an activity you already do as a class - sharing what you do with an international audience will only enhance this.

Here are some ideas that you could consider. Many of them do not involve your learners leaving the classroom.

Think how you might :

1) Use [Connecting Classrooms](#) from the British Council to take your class on a Virtual Field Trip: You and your learners can access other learners and find a guide to 'take' you there. You could visit historical landmarks, museums, zoo, or just visit a classroom in another part of the world to learn about their language and culture and to share your own. This could build into a relevant joint project or activity.

2) For learners encourage meaningful writing opportunities, write back and forth or web conference with pen pals throughout the year to develop writing, communication, language and IT skills.

3) Share a Project: Have your students been working on some kind of a special project? Give them the chance to show/share it with a distant class. This provides motivation and will help them develop confidence in the value of their work. You could twin with an area where you are planning a field trip or one that you are studying in class.

4) Find some topics you have in common or are unique to your region and work around this. You may already be celebrating World Book Day and there are many other [international days](#) around the environment and other relevant themes you could share in celebrating with international learners.

5) Put on a Performance: Is there a poem, song, skit, a cultural event that you mark in your classroom that you could share with an international class. International learners want to find out about our cultural celebrations around Burns Day, Halloween, Religious festivals or more local regional celebrations and they are eager too to share their own culture and history.

6) Interview an Expert: Share expertise between learners or between teachers - how are international schools closing the attainment gap?

7) You might build on international links that already exist in your classroom or work with learners in areas that your town or city is already twinned with.

There are lots of technologies that are available that can support these on-line exchanges, to support web conferencing and virtual tours. You can access many of these from your classroom.

Make the most of YouTube, Skype, Google Translate and the free tools available to you and the learners.

Once you have built up strong links you will want to go the next step and arrange a learner or teacher exchange with partner schools.