## Project Summary

Our school has always tried to encourage children to be aware of other cultures and faiths. Children have been taken on visits to Hindu Temples, mosques, synagogues etc. but as a school in an all white affluent area of the County we realised that we were not giving our children opportunities to really understand the world in which we live. The children were not aware that there are many children who are much less fortunate than themselves and don't have the life chances that they have. The children became aware of this when one of our parents brought into school pictures of a school in Gambia; they were genuinely shocked as to the conditions in the school. We also realised that many of the children were very unaware of the multicultural society that we live in. We felt that although we are situated both close to Liverpool and Preston, our children were not aware of the diverse communities that exist in both of these cities. This all linked together with a link we established four years ago with the Pearl of Africa choir, which has now visited the school three times and some children have established links with children in the school in Uganda.

### Specific aspect of practice to be accredited?

Establishing links with schools in totally different environments to our own.

### Aspect of Every Child Matters addressed:

- [ ] Be healthy
- [x] Make a positive contribution
- [ ] Stay Safe
- [ ] Enjoy and achieve
- [ ] Achieve economic well-being

### What were you hoping to achieve?

We were hoping to establish educational resources that will build into the new curriculum that we put into place in September 2010.

### How did you identify the need for this practice?

ECM audit. We realised that as a school we were not developing opportunities to enable our children to be more aware of the wider world in which we live in the 21st century.
**Briefly describe the main characteristics of the school?**

- Christ Church School is situated in a semi rural location in a predominately white catchment area.
- One form entry with seven classes.
- The standard number is thirty.
- Learners are taught in single aged classes.
- It is a controlled school and there are strong links with the church and parish.
- We offer extended provision in a privately owned full-day care Nursery, offering provision for 2-5 year olds.
- We offer pre-school and after-school care from 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.
- Basic Skills awarded for the third time in July 2009.
- Healthy Schools Award.
- Partnership with Edge Hill College.
- Partnership Links with our High School to enhance our arts provision.
- Extensive language teaching in French, Spanish and German.
- Good community links - e.g. University of the Third Age and P.A.C.T. local theatre groups, charity fundraising for local and national events.
- Local community police.

**What did you do?**

- Over the last ten years we have made regular visits to Hindu Temples in Preston and the Jewish Synagogue in Southport, led by our RE coordinator Mrs. Brookes.
- 4 years ago we had our visit from Pearl of Africa choir from a Ugandan School for orphans.
- 1 year ago we established links with Deepdale Junior School in Preston (led by Mr. Kennedy and Ms Jenkins).
- 1 year ago we began working with schools in Gambia (parent governor Mr. Hilton).
- October half term 2010: 4 staff visited St. Cuthbert's School in Basse Gambia (Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Clare, Mrs. Chapple and Mrs. Croft).
- The visit was able to go ahead because of the support of the British Council.
- Our creative curriculum adapted to include unit of work on Gambia.

**Which members of the establishment and/or wider community have been involved and what was their role?**

The project was originally led by the Headteacher, when Pearl of Africa Choir first started coming to school. However in September last year, with the establishment of a new SLT we were able to move the project forward. The project is now led by Mr. David Kennedy, deputy headteacher. Other staff involved were Ms Jenkins, (year 4 teacher Deepdale link). Mr. Clare, (y6 teacher) Mrs Chapple (year 3 teacher) and Mrs Croft (HLTA) The last four were all involved in the visit to Gambia. Mr. Hilton, parent governor (initial link with a school in Gambia) Mrs Mae Winterton, Schools for Gambia coordinator in UK. Mrs and Mr Chalk, members of Christ Church Congregation established the links to Pearl of Africa Choir. Mrs. Brookes, our RE
coordinator, has been instrumental in ensuring that our children have an awareness of other faith communities.

Our school council has also been involved in organising fund raising events for Gambia and for the last ten years we have also supported The Christmas Box collection scheme for children in deprived areas of the world.

**How has the progress of the project been monitored and evaluated?**

The project has been monitored half termly by the headteacher and governors have been kept informed via the Curriculum committee and by headteacher's termly report to the Governors.

**How has the practice been modified or improved during development?**

Throughout the development of this project we have changed our approaches and, especially with the development of our new creative curriculum, we have been able to revisit our plans to incorporate new ideas and resources as they have come along.

**What has been the impact of the project on pupils’ learning, achievement or enjoyment and how has this been measured?**

It has made our curriculum much more meaningful because we can teach about places that we have actually been to and know about.

**What are the next stages in the development process?**

Our main aim for the next year is to continue our links with Deepdale School by our new year 4 class visiting in the spring term and Deepdale School coming to Christ Church School in the summer term. As our curriculum is developing, more opportunities are being introduced to enable us to plan visits to Liverpool. Our Year 6 and year 5 classes have been looking at Liverpool buildings and the heritage they have developed from. Our curriculum teams will be developing and enhancing the resources for our year 3 topics on Gambia, especially the links with Basse.

**What aspects of this practice may be useful for other establishments to consider?**

We now have invaluable lessons in how to link with schools in Africa, we understand the difficulties and we have a very good understanding of the planning involved in a visit abroad.