



#ThisisLfS

Towards a whole setting approach
to Learning for Sustainability:
Inspiration & Insights



Muthill Primary School

Local Authority: Perth and Kinross

60 pupils in 3 composite classes (3 teachers plus Head teacher)



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Summary

Muthill pupils and the wider community have supported and campaigned about sustainable development issues for over a decade, often in partnership with their partner school in Ghana. With a focus on Fair Trade, Children's Rights and the [UN's Sustainable Development Goals](#) the school has retained full British Council [International Schools Award](#) status for over six years, is a '[Fair Aware](#)' School, an [Eco-School](#) and a Gold [Rights Respecting School](#). These awards are shared with both the Muthill and Tafo communities in Ghana, because none of this would have happened without their support and enthusiasm.

'What started out as a 'busman's holiday' twelve years ago has evolved into a long-standing link between two rural communities. It is the strong community support, across both schools, that has maintained and strengthened our partnership'. Keri Reid, Principal Teacher

School partnership visits have involved head teachers, teachers, community members and former pupils from both schools, demonstrating the strength of what is now most definitely a community partnership. (See more at <https://scotland.britishcouncil.org/blog/working-together-smart-and-beautiful-projects>)

How did Muthill Primary develop its whole school approach?

1. Curriculum planning incorporates opportunities for learning about children's rights, 'eco' issues, international links and fairtrade.
2. Whole school interdisciplinary learning topics are arranged, the most recent with a focus on the [UN's Sustainable Development Goals](#). Pupils reinforce, develop and make links in their learning through a range of curricular areas.
3. Pupils are involved in local, national and international campaigns and enjoy taking action. The best initiatives are those that come from the pupils themselves.
4. Responsibilities and actions are planned by the pupils. Pupil committees have included Global Citizenship/International Schools, 'Eco', Gardening, Outdoor Learning, Fairtrade and Healthy Schools
5. Sometimes they work with and share their learning with their partner school in Ghana and sometimes with the local community. Collaborative work is integrated into existing curriculum topics, creating a relevant context and purpose for learning.
6. Every year the school participates in the [World's Largest Lesson](#) which links with the key criteria of the 2018 OECD Pisa Assessment framework: [Global Competence](#).

'Learning in this way, and using global citizenship as a context for learning, allows pupils to become proactive participants in and out of school. It offers a real platform for developing the core skills and attributes needed in the 21st century, such as creativity, collaboration, critical thinking and problem solving. It also encourages an authentic pupil 'voice' and the opportunity to take a lead in their learning, demonstrating and applying their learning through planned social actions'. Keri Reid, Principal Teacher

How do you know it is working?

- Pupils at Muthill have become ambassadors in their learning and have: spoken to local community groups and other schools; written to the Prime Minister (and received replies); started up a food bank and a Fair Trade shop.
- P6 pupil Martha Cannon represented Scotland in 2018 and spoke to the Education Ministers at the G20 meeting in Argentina via a video recording, explaining why it is important to be learning about the UN Sustainable Development Goals in schools.
- In 2019 the school has received further funding from the British Council to work on taking action on the UN Sustainable Development Goals along with their partner school in Ghana. They are currently working on a collaborative song video to raise awareness of the SDGs, written by Muthill pupils and choreographed and put to music by the pupils of Juliet Johnston School in Ghana. The school aims to launch the final video when the Ghanaian colleagues are across in April 2019.
- For an example of their songs on sustainability issues, visit this one about saving water at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kn6c9hKu-xs> and one on children's rights <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R28CiFjiSQk>

"Outstanding approaches to learning about sustainability, citizenship and global issues. The school's work over the last decade in this area is making a real difference to children, the local community of Muthill and a community further afield in Ghana."
Education Scotland 2016

Thanks to Keri Reid, Principal Teacher, Muthill Primary School, February 2019