

SCHOOLS LINKING MID-YEAR REPORT 2022

School linking was established to improve the quality of teaching and learning in linked schools whereby UK and Malawian schools share teaching and learning practices. Over the years, schools linking has enabled exchange visits that enhanced over 100 teachers meeting face to face. It has also helped in engaging learners in various projects that directly involve them, improving learners' skills such as literacy, numeracy, and participatory. Children in the partnerships share issues that are topic based within a given timeframe. The activities help them think outside their normal classroom work experience and explore work done by their peers in a different country. Currently, 37 schools are in partnership.

Clean Hands and Health Walk Projects

These projects were launched in the link schools in May 2021 and they continue into 2022. The Clean Hands and Health Walk projects work alongside each other whereby the children in UK and Malawi are encouraged to regularly wash their hands throughout the school day to avoid COVID and other diseases and to walk around the school listing key things needed for a healthy environment such as the provision of soap and clean water, bins for litter, brooms and mops for sweeping classes and toilets (there are no school cleaners in the Malawi schools), etc.

Teachers in schools have lesson plans that would guide them in the delivery of lessons focusing on these issues which promote practical activities in ensuring that a learning environment has basic needs met such as encouraging the children to clean, picking up litter, wash hands, etc.



Learners at Kachere Junior School with their Teacher Charles Kandiya

In the early years of Kachere, issues of litter were a concern so the projects have been particularly helpful to engage learners through assemblies and lessons about the importance of not littering, etc. Also to look around their schools to consider how they could improve their environment.

As a result the school has been exceptional in managing its school environment and promoting the clean hands/health walk project. Despite having few classes from standard 1-4, the school over the term has kept the school environment very clean.



Kachere School with Cleaner School Grounds.

Charles Kandiya is the link coordinator who has championed the initiatives.

"Children, are amazing people. We allow our children to enjoy leadership in how to be responsible for the environment. We made regulations that are easy to follow and mostly suggested by children themselves. By and by our learners learned how they could keep their environment clean. The project has taught us to love our friends, the environment, and ourselves. Clean hands, on the other hand, encourage learners to stay safe by washing their hands."



Crafts made from rubbish at Napache School

Children learn things faster through doing practicals such as those at Napache Primary School. After walking around the children noticed a lot of litter around the school's premises and decided to make a change. The school created a way to collect the paper litter and recycle it into something else that would be put to use. Not only has the idea promoted cleanliness in classrooms but also allows children to participate by creating learning materials such as animals, letters, and numbers that could be used in literacy and numeracy.

Furthermore, Napache school continued with their Clean Hands project which have so far been followed by many learners. It has been mandatory to wash hands before entering a classroom with clean water and soap.