



School Linking Programme



The School Linking programme aims to match students from different cultural or faith backgrounds to explore issues of identity, community and belief, based on their students' lived experience

The programme pairs two teachers and classes from different schools – the two lead teachers organise and facilitate three 'Link Days' together during the academic year

The Link days are centred around students improving their communication and interfaith skills (critical thinking, empathy, dialogue). This supports schools **SMSC** and **British Values** provision by fostering an understanding and respect for difference amongst their students

Teachers taking part are given the training, resources and planning time for running their Link days at the **three CPD (Continuing Professional Development) days** we host during the academic year.

Key Details

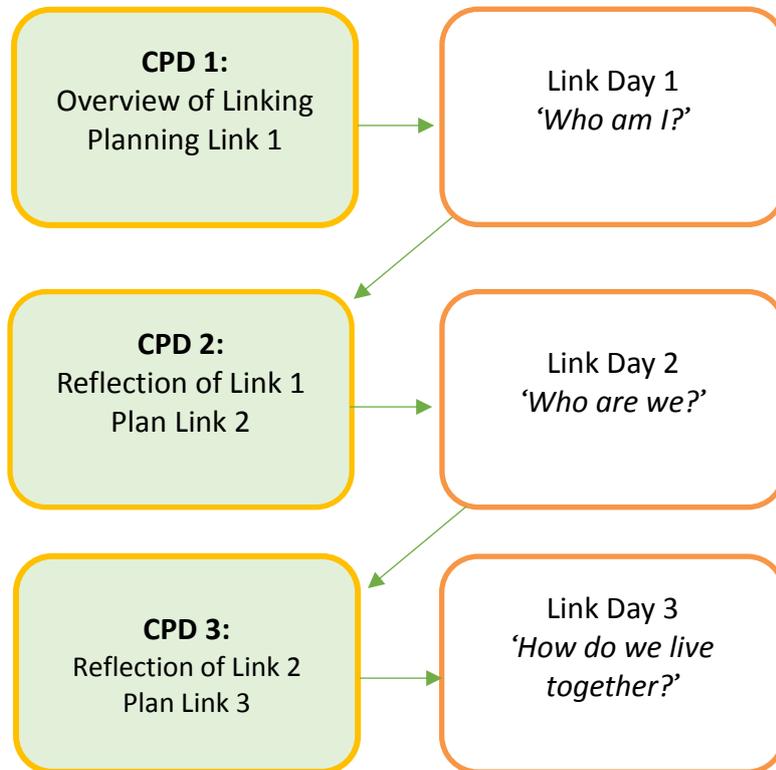
- The first Link day takes place at a neutral venue. Due to local partnerships last year this included Birmingham Museum sites, WBA FC ground, The Hawthorns, Botanical Gardens, Selly Manor and Moor Pool Estate. The remaining two Link days take place at either school, as both take the opportunity to host and visit.
- The programme requires that lead Link teachers attend three CPD days.
- **The programme and training are free**, and some cases funding can be made available to each Linking pair to help with travel costs and venue hire

Partnering with:





The Linking Year



School Linking CPD content

- Training and information for hosting successful interfaith encounters
- Provision of resources and age-appropriate activities for exploring themes of 'identity', 'diversity' and 'community' with their students
- Expert guidance and support for planning for exciting and memorable Link days
- Peer to peer discussion and learning around exploration of faith and belief in the classroom.

Our training is suitable for RE teachers, SMSC and British Values leads, or simply teachers looking to expand their understanding and experience of providing interfaith activities for their students.



Quotes from previous teachers:

"I feel that the project has been very successful in achieving its aim of breaking down prejudice and increasing the children's awareness of the diverse society in which we live. I hope the pupils will share the lessons learned through this experience with the other children from the school as well as with family and friends. The schools are already planning to develop more school links next year."

"F&BF training provides an excellent range of practical and relevant ideas and resources with supportive and helpful staff."

"CPD Sessions were very informative. Our Link days enabled our pupils to engage and interact with each other. Pupil's barriers and stereotypes are slowly being broken!"

Quotes from previous students:

"A lot of people are segregated and don't interact with people from different parts of the community. This has been a great way to learn about each other. I thought it would be more awkward than it has been, and it's actually been quite fun. I found out we laugh at the same things and have far more in common than I thought."

"After days like this, I feel more able to converse with people that are different from us when we see them around our area. I have been finding it much easier to communicate with other students than I thought."

"Before the first link day I felt nervous because I felt there were no similarities. But after I got to know them, I realised there weren't that many differences. I made many new friends today and I hope I meet them again soon."

If you are interested in taking part in the programme, or would like more information, please contact Rich Pringle (Programmes Coordinator) at rich@faithbeliefforum.org