

Press release

(October 2022)

British Council International School Award success for The Willink School

The Willink School in Burghfield, Berkshire has been awarded the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of its work to bring the world into the classroom.

The International School Award celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need for life work in today's world.

The Willink School's international work includes activities that take place in school, online and as part of extra-curricular and charitable activities.

Examples of our work include:

- Our wonderful Key Stage 3 Culture and Language event which we run in partnership with Padworth College every October.
- Our Key Stage 4 Teams regularly meeting with foreign partner schools during their lessons, which always prove to be a very exciting experience for our students.
- Our Key Stage 5 long-standing and so meaningful 'Flying Pig' project with Ion Creanga school, (our Moldovan school partner), led so admirably since 2004 by Mrs C Downey.
- Running a large variety of trips and visits, including cross curricular residential trips to Iceland, Belgium, several residential trips to Spain, France and Germany, a day trip to France, as well as work experiences.

On hearing the news that The Willink had received the award, **Mr Fry, Headteacher** said: *"The Willink school is delighted to have received this accolade by the British Council. At The Willink, our 'Village School, Global Outlook' ethos is truly embedded in the DNA of our school.*

We are extremely proud of all our students, who always seize every possible opportunity to take part in international and global activities. Our school collectively looks forward to continuing to be part of many more exciting and meaningful international projects over the coming years.”

Scott McDonald, Chief Executive of the British Council, said: ‘The school has earned this prestigious award through its inspirational international work and links with schools abroad. The International School Award is a chance for schools to be recognised for their important work bringing the world into their classrooms. This is especially commendable when schools have been deeply affected by the global pandemic. The desire to build on their international work shines through and it is with upmost pride that we celebrate their achievements. By embedding an international dimension in children’s education, these schools are preparing their students for successful lives in the UK or further afield, empowering them to be global citizens, and are creating vital opportunities in an increasingly global economy.’

The Award is now available worldwide in countries such as Egypt, Nigeria, Pakistan and Taiwan. Over 6000 International School Awards have been presented to successful schools in the UK since the scheme began in 1999.

The International School Award encourages and supports schools to develop:

- An international ethos embedded throughout the school
- A whole school approach to international work
- Collaborative curriculum-based work with a number of partner schools
- Year-round international activity
- Involvement of the wider community

- ENDS -

To interview the school or for images, please contact Emily Lambert, Press & Marketing Manager: elambert@willink.w-berks.sch.uk.

For more information about the International School Award, please contact our team at schools@britishcouncil.org

Notes to Editors:

The **British Council International School Award** started in 1999 to recognise the schools leading the way in instilling and developing a global dimension into the learning experience of all children and young people. It is managed by the British Council.

The **British Council** is the UK’s international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We support peace and prosperity by building connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and countries worldwide. We work with people in over 200 countries and territories and are on the ground in more than 100 countries. In 2020–21 we connected with 67 million people directly and with 745 million people overall.
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