

Intergenerational proposal for schools

Generations Working Together (GWT) is looking to work closely with a handful of primary/secondary schools who are keen to develop and embed intergenerational work.

There are many schools across Scotland who have dabbled in developing intergenerational work however many have struggled to sustain and develop longer term projects and partnerships which can deliver a significant impact for their pupils.

Back in September 2017, GWT developed the first education pilot in Scotland working with two schools in the Perth & Kinross area. GWT placed an Intergenerational Development Officer in both schools to recruit, train and support older volunteers (32 in total), creating an intergenerational programme to support young people develop their literacy and numeracy skills.

The Community School of Auchterarder and Perth Grammar School contributed funding from their Pupil Equity Fund to take part in the project and are half way through their second year. GWT is now interested in replicating this project in another area of Scotland and would be interested in hearing from schools who are keen to embed an intergenerational programme into their school with the help of GWT.

Our schools in Perth & Kinross are reporting that there has been a significant impact on their pupil's confidence, numeracy and literacy levels as a result of the intergenerational programme.

Volunteers are now involved in the following activities:

- Story-telling in Nursery
- Paired reading, one to one in both Primary & Secondary
- Writing and reading support in Primary – more challenging texts for advanced readers
- One –to-one, and support for small groups in Math's classes in Secondary
- Times-tables and number bonds numeracy support in Primary

Other intergenerational activities and projects are also being set up in both schools including:

- Recycling garden furniture (working alongside the local men's shed)
- Designing and developing a garden
- Growing fruit and vegetables
- Building an Eco shelter out of plastic bottles

Check out the [short film](#) from the Community School of Auchterarder.

GWT is **proposing that schools consider contributing funds from their Pupil Equity Funding** to participate in this second pilot. GWT will be responsible for recruiting, training and supporting the Development Officer and would look to work closely with all schools involved to build a programme which will work primarily with children which are most affected by the poverty related attainment gap. This programme however will have a much wider reach and will benefit many more children as well as the older people who are involved in the projects.

It is hoped to start this second pilot **during the summer term ensuring volunteers are fully trained for the beginning of the new academic term in August.**

We are proud to report that the approach has the backing of the Deputy First Minister, John Swinney MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills who attended and spoke at our education learning event in Perth.

Costs

Cost of taking part in this pilot for 12 months include:

- £ 9,660 - One day per week
- £19,320 - Two days per week

Although the costing is for one year there is the option for schools to extend for a second year to be able to fully implement and evaluate the impact for those involved. Both schools taking part in Perth & Kinross after only 6 months, agreed to continue for a second year seeing clearly a benefit to having an intergenerational officer based within the schools. After 2-3 years it is hoped that these projects will cease to require an intergenerational officer and that it will become more of a maintenance project and that the intergenerational hub which will be created within each school will continue to develop the intergenerational programme.

Further details and examples of intergenerational projects can be found on our website. Here are some interesting case studies:

- [Learn together Cymru](#)
- [Old School, Oxford Academy](#)
- [Harris Academy, Dundee](#)

We can provide examples of good practice which clearly show how beneficial intergenerational work can be for young people whether its building their skills around numeracy and literacy or working to build self-esteem, confidence and communication skills.

Intergenerational working has been proven to work extremely well with young people who are not currently attaining academically, by helping them gain new skills and confidence to move into volunteering, employment and further education. An example of this can see found in Harris Academy's case study above.

What to do next

If you are interested in knowing more or would like to take part, GWT is keen to meet with senior management teams to discuss in more detail.

You may also be interested in attending or even just reading up on our programme for the national [conference on Wednesday 6th March](#) 2019 taking place Glasgow. There are three workshops aimed at intergenerational work within schools, one on raising achievement and attainment another on financial resilience and a third on physical activity.

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Background

GWT's main aim is to work towards creating a fairer Scotland where people of all ages, but particularly the young and old, work together to challenge stereotypes, build social cohesion and mutual respect and build stronger communities. GWT was set up in 2007 and has continued to be funded by the Scottish Government however in July 2015 GWT became a Charity to provide opportunities for developing partnerships and projects such as this one.

Website: www.generationsworkingtogether.org