

### **School Links Projects**

**A school link can be defined as a relationship between two schools that is of mutual benefit to both of them. This type of linking provides wide scope and potential to teachers who want to broaden their horizon and provide quality education to the children in other parts of the world..**

**AGS Links project aims to provide a forum where like-minded counterparts in Pakistan can link up. School Links partnerships foster a mutual interest among students about each other's activities, interests and lifestyles.**

**A partnership between the linked schools is equal, reciprocal and fun and it would contribute to the curriculum and broad interests of both the schools.**

**A successful school link would be able to raise young people's awareness of cultural diversity and promote understanding among different communities. School partnership can help support teaching and learning about development issues, global citizenship and education based on an understanding of global interdependence. It also offers a coherent and strategic way of addressing issues of interest to young people with opportunities for direct participation in collaborative projects.**

### **Kashmir Education Foundation**

**In Pakistan, quality education is only available in a few expensive urban schools, which are restricted to the children of affluent parents. Ninety nine percent of children, including many gifted and talented ones, mostly in rural areas, are condemned to sub-standard schooling.**

**The Kashmir Education Foundation (KEF) is a non-profit, non-political, educational trust registered in Pakistan and Azad Kashmir, also as a charitable trust in the United Kingdom (Charity No. 1082299). Its primary aim is to make the highest quality education accessible to talented girls and boys from the poor sections of society, with special emphasis on female education. Another prime objective is to set up Institute of Teacher Education for female graduates particularly from rural areas, to enable them to become high standard teachers. Their pilot project was Pearl Valley Public School and Institute of Teacher Education in Rawalakot, Azad Kashmir, established in August 1996. The school caters for the educational needs of talented children from Rawalakot and the surrounding villages, over an area of two hundred square kilometres. It is a main policy of the Foundation to give priority to female education; girls constitute over fifty one percent of their total number of students.**

### **Acklam Grange-Kashmir Link Project**

**The British Council in Pakistan approached AGS 3 years ago through Middlesborough LEA to establish a school link with interested Pakistani schools. Since then we have managed to develop this link with one of the KEF's schools in Pakistan. I visited KEF-UK office in Bradford on 7 September 2005 to introduce AGS to them. Our link project was about to start in November 2005 but**

**unfortunately it was temporarily deferred till this school year due to the major earthquake in Pakistan in October 2005.**

**KEF-UK invited J.A.Bate and myself to their annual charity dinner on Sunday 10 September 2006 in Bradford, which gave us an opportunity to meet the KEF Chairman and officially start this link. We agreed to work with their schools and Teacher Training Institute through ICT and Video Conference interaction in order to develop teacher training opportunities and curricular learning between AGS and their schools in Kashmir.**

**AGS has sponsored 120 Conquermaths accounts in October for next 3 years for Pearl Valley Public School and 3 key officials from KEF-UK will be visiting AGS on Monday 6 November to explore further possibilities for our school link project.**

### **Partnership Ideas /Aims**

**To raise our students' awareness of global issues.**

**To celebrate the rich and diverse heritage represented in AGS, local, national and international communities.**

**To understand complex international interdependencies in the global economy.**

**To respect and value different cultures and beliefs.**

**To enjoy regular contact with students and adults living in different countries.**

**To share good teaching practices.**

**From time to time (technology permitting) to share curriculum based model lessons.**

**To share lesson plans / resources where possible.**

**To provide our students with the opportunity of international work experience.**