

Press release

11 September 17

British Council International School Award success for St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Luton 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.

St. Joseph's international work includes **joint projects with partner schools abroad, the French language and French speaking world, Fairtrade and the work of CAFOD overseas and a broad, creative curriculum which comprises the study of other countries, faiths and cultures. This year, the School entered the Junior Language Challenge and have 8 pupils going through to the semi-finals in Cambridge on 13 September.**

On hearing the news that St Joseph's had received the award, **Mrs Jacqueline Lee, Head teacher** said: ***We are very fortunate to have a richly diverse school community and have always striven to ensure that this is reflected and celebrated in the work that we do at St. Joseph's. Our approach enables all our pupils to take pride in their own cultural heritage whilst promoting tolerance and respect in building knowledge and understanding as global citizens. Parents and Carers have been extremely supportive in our achievement of the International Schools Award and were instrumental in the success of our Multicultural Celebration in the summer.***

Nazia Ahmed, Parent Governor at St. Joseph's added: ***As a parent I was so proud when St Joseph's received this award. My two children are currently taking part in the Junior Language Challenge and learning Japanese, yes.... Japanese! I can see the effort they are putting in at home regularly and their enjoyment.***

As a Governor, I am so pleased that the school is being recognised for the efforts the teachers and all staff put into supporting young people with their global learning. The children have celebrated different cultures with parent participation and I myself have visited all Reception and Year 2 classes to talk about Islam.

Parents and Carers also supported the children during the Multicultural Celebration Day last term by running stalls in the 'cultural market place' set up in both school halls. Every class had the opportunity to visit the many stalls to explore and learn about other cultures and countries. Activities included language displays, traditional dance, clothing and music, as well as hair braiding, jewellery and henna hand art painting. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to taste a wide variety of food and traditional dishes from the many cultures represented in the school.

The focus on celebrating different cultures as part of the International School Award has been an excellent example of St Joseph's bringing parents, carers, children and practitioners together.

Sir Ciarán Devane, CEO of the British Council, said: 'The school's fantastic international work has rightfully earned it this prestigious award. The International School Award is a great chance for schools to demonstrate the important work they're doing to bring the world into their classrooms. Embedding an international dimension in children's education ensures that they are truly global citizens and helps prepare them for successful lives and careers in an increasingly global economy.'

The award is now available worldwide in countries such as India, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Lebanon, Cyprus, and Pakistan. Around 5,500 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

Additional information about the International Schools Award is available on the school website.

Multicultural Celebration Day

