



# Using the Global Learning Programme themes to shape the new curriculum

*Reena Merali, GLP Coordinator, Argyle Primary School*

The Global Learning Programme (GLP) is a ground-breaking programme which is building a national network of like-minded schools, committed to equipping their students to make a positive contribution to a globalised world. The GLP helps teachers in primary, secondary and special schools to deliver effective teaching and learning about development and global issues at key stages 2 and 3.

GLP schools are experiencing the positive impact that global learning can have on pupils' knowledge, skills and values, and on the teaching and learning practice of staff across the whole school. The GLP also helps schools develop an ethos promoting tolerance, fairness and respect. Teachers involved in the GLP are working with colleagues in local schools to drive forward global learning across the curriculum, share best practice and engage in funded CPD opportunities.

SSAT is a partner in the consortium of organisations leading GLP and is looking forward to sharing the work from some of the 2000 schools already engaged in the programme over the years ahead.

## CASE STUDY - ARGYLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Global learning is really important to Argyle School because we have such a varied community. We have families from all around the world. It's important that the children know that we respect their religions and their beliefs, and understand where they came from. It's important that we teach them about the countries they came from as well as this country.'

*Jackie Gwatkin, Chair of Governors*

Argyle Primary School is a GLP Expert Centre based in the borough of Camden, London. In the year 2000, we, as a school, really looked at the cohort of children that we had and thought about how we were going to enable active and independent citizenship – how we were going to really capture the interests of the children. We believed that the best way to engage the children would be to talk about the world around them, and as the majority of children were from diverse backgrounds, they were able to bring prior knowledge and understanding to the classroom (if not their own then at least their parents') and we found that some topics really captured the children's understanding and interest. Since then, education for sustainable development (ESD) and global learning has been integrated across the whole-school curriculum. 

### The Global Learning Programme and our new curriculum

This year at Argyle we have focused on embedding the GLP themes into the new curriculum. As a GLP Expert Centre, we have made this a focus for our GLP network sessions with our 16 partner schools who we have enjoyed sharing our practice with.

‘It’s absolutely exciting for the children to be looking at the world at large. They are the centre of their own universe, but when you talk to them about their place in the world, and they get to explore different communities and different cultures, that’s when they really come alive.’

*Reena Merali, GLP Coordinator*

We have already embedded a number of topics that taught the children about sustainability, e.g. learning about how to protect the rainforest and the impact that it has on the wider world. However as the curriculum changed we knew that this would be a good opportunity to ensure that we covered a range of GLP themes across the new whole-school curriculum. Some of the opportunities where we have found ways to link the GLP themes are:

#### Year 2 history

Lives of significant people: the children learn about different people who have stood up for human rights and they learn to write a recount in literacy, and develop their ICT skills by researching these people.

#### Year 2 geography

Forests in the UK and Brazil: the children learn about deforestation and consider how they can make a difference. In literacy they make a leaflet informing parents about how actions can make a difference.

#### Year 3 geography

Earthquakes and volcanoes: the children consider the impact of earthquakes, e.g. in Haiti. They consider whether charities are the right solution to solve some of the issues created by natural disasters. The children can then write explanation texts in literacy.

#### Year 3 science

Plants: the children learn about the Floating Garden Challenge in Bangladesh.



#### Year 5 history

Tudors: the children learn about the difference between the rich and the poor, looking at relative and absolute poverty. They can then create an information book in literacy.

#### Year 6 history

War and conflict in Baghdad: the children learn about the impact of war on adults’ and children’s human rights.

We shared our new curriculum with the network in summer 2014, and some of our partner schools have also started to use some of the GLP themes to shape their new curriculum.

‘The session that stands out the most as specifically helping to shape the curriculum was the twilight in March where this was the focus of the session. I found it particularly helpful as Argyle Primary gave real, practical examples of how they had linked the GLP to the topics at their school. It was really helpful to be able to see how the GLP can be linked to topics in a meaningful way. Following this session, after I plotted the new curriculum topics for this year, I went on to add potential GLP links in our long-term planning. I have now developed a document where I have placed links to the lesson resources on the Global Dimension website, so that where there are GLP links there are a number of examples of lessons/resources teachers can use.’

*Simone Wright,  
Kingsbury Green Primary School  
(former partner school and now an Expert Centre)*



The GLP is currently being used by over 2000 schools across the country. These schools are all benefiting from the free school-led training, guidance, resources, local school network support and £500 worth of funded CPD provided by the GLP.\*

The GLP provides the tools to help teaching staff deliver a richer and more relevant curriculum by embedding engaging and globally themed content into their teaching. In addition to reinforcing pupils' curriculum knowledge and understanding, and strengthening their independent enquiry and critical thinking skills, schools are using the GLP to promote the SMSC development of their pupils.

The GLP offers a choice of ways for schools to get involved – relevant to their prior global learning experience – simply by registering for free at [www.glp-e.org.uk](http://www.glp-e.org.uk).

\*The GLP is funded by the UK government. Funding is available to key stages 2 and 3 in state schools in England. The GLP is managed by a consortium: Pearson (lead), Geographical Association, Institute of Education, Oxfam UK, Royal Geographical Society, Think Global and SSAT.

### Useful links

Argyle Primary School website  
[www.argyle.camden.sch.uk/curriculum-a-learning/global-learning-curriculum](http://www.argyle.camden.sch.uk/curriculum-a-learning/global-learning-curriculum)

The Global Learning Programme  
[www.glp-e.org.uk](http://www.glp-e.org.uk)

The Global Dimension website  
[www.globaldimension.org.uk](http://www.globaldimension.org.uk)

GLP themes and curriculum framework  
<http://globaldimension.org.uk/glp/page/10706>

GLP pupil outcomes  
<http://globaldimension.org.uk/glp/page/10724>

Practical Action 'Floating Garden' activity  
[http://practicalaction.org/climatechange\\_floatinggardens](http://practicalaction.org/climatechange_floatinggardens)

GLP science resource  
[http://clients.squareeye.net/uploads/glp/GLP\\_pdfs/Subjects/Science/Science\\_Exemplification\\_Case\\_Studies.pdf](http://clients.squareeye.net/uploads/glp/GLP_pdfs/Subjects/Science/Science_Exemplification_Case_Studies.pdf)