



PARTNER ENGAGEMENT POLICY

AS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ON FEBRUARY 22, 2012

TO BE REVIEWED AGAIN IN FEBRUARY 2014

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Global Schoolroom is dedicated to sharing educational experience between communities worldwide to help eradicate poverty, promote economic development and build sustainable communities.

OUR FIVE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Education has the power to enlighten one another and expand each individual's scope for opportunity.

A primary education for every child is essential (the UN's Millennium Development Goal for universal education).

Sharing good educational practices enriches the collective educational experience and widens the cultural horizons of everyone involved.

Forging respectful links between educational partners works to their mutual benefit.

Working directly with teachers and communities is the best way to build a strong framework for high standards of teacher training which, once in place, can be delivered by sustainable local networks.

OUR POLICIES

Global Schoolroom's policies are proofed against our Mission Statement and Guiding Principles and aim to reflect best international practice.

STATEMENT OF PARTNER ENGAGEMENT

Global Schoolroom aims to ensure that its volunteer programmes are based on realistic goals and objectives with appropriate and useful volunteer roles, which fit with local needs. The organisation involves its local partners in all steps of programme design, planning and implementation. This takes place at least once a year at an annual meeting with all local partners but where possible contact is also maintained between meetings with local partners. Regular visits to host centers is also carried out on an annual basis. Designated local contacts respond to queries from volunteers.

Accordingly, Global Schoolroom seeks active involvement with local partners in the following areas:

- Child and vulnerable adult protection issues to ensure common agreements, mutual learning and development of good practice
- Volunteer recruitment and selection
- Evaluation of volunteer programmes and process
- Annual project plans, which agree training supports required by local partners
- Allocation of human and financial resources
- Volunteer training and induction (Local Partner Volunteer Training Guidelines enclosed)
- Consultation on promotional materials used by the organisation where local partners are given an opportunity to review and enhance this material
- Consultation on training content and materials
- Selection of local teachers for future training as tutors
- To agree any outstanding programme logistics and long-term strategic plans

LOCAL PARTNER VOLUNTEER TRAINING GUIDELINES

A short briefing session should take place on the first day of the placement. Its purpose is to re-assure new Global Schoolroom volunteers, while at the same time to remind those with more experience of their roles and responsibilities.

The team leader and the partner host should jointly facilitate the briefing session.

The following items may be used to prompt discussion:

1. Introductions
2. Accommodation
3. House timetable
4. Meal times
5. Work times
6. Rest days/Festivals
7. Food and water – including tap water safety
8. Alcohol
9. Smoking
10. Appropriate behaviour/Religious and other sensitivity
11. Washing clothes/laundry
12. Location – local geography
13. Transport to/from town/shops etc.
14. Phones
15. Internet
16. Photocopier
17. Stationary
18. Health and safety
 - a. Anti-malarial medication
 - b. Mosquito net
 - c. Sunscreen
 - d. 'Don't keep it to yourself'
 - e. Traffic
19. Leader Pack
20. Any questions?

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

IRISH LAW

You must respect the laws of Ireland and specifically, but not exclusively, be aware of your responsibilities under Irish law.

GLOBAL SCHOOLROOM POLICIES

In addition, there are policies in a variety of areas, which Global Schoolroom Directors, Management, Staff, Volunteers and all other participants must be aware of and operate under where these policies are relevant.