

Connecting Classrooms

Project template: From our window (7-11 or mixed ages)

<p>Summary</p>	<p>The view from the window is a gentle way to explore similarities and differences between schools. It is a good introductory activity. Different media can turn this into a very interesting project.</p>
<p>First activity</p>	<p>Take a photo from your classroom window and put descriptive labels on to some of the things you can see. Paint a picture to represent the colours and moods. Imagine the scene at a different time of year. Class teams could take these different approaches.</p> <p>Discuss with the class the local to global... what is in the school grounds, the locality of the school, and what is global - the air, birds, the clouds.</p> <p>Take a photo of each team looking out of the window; it's a lovely way to introduce the class and show the school buildings more imaginatively.</p>
<p>Exchange work</p>	<p>Send by post, fax, or via email examples of the work you have done in class, and wait to receive theirs.</p> <p>Ask your students about what they're expecting to see - the weather, the school buildings, clothes, trees. This helps them to focus when they do see the views.</p>
<p>Share responses</p>	<p>Try to set responses in the local to global framework.</p>
<p>Extension activities</p>	<p>Create a display; hold an assembly.</p>
<p>Useful resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples and ideas: http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/website/projects.htm • Display and share the pictures using http://www.elanguages.org - put up galleries of photos of your class in privacy (free).



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Teacher's Notes

Project: From our window (7-11 or mixed ages)

Aims and Outcomes: This project invites students to explore similarities and differences between schools, nationally and globally creating awareness of other young people's reality in an interesting way. It allows the students to use their imagination and think about their immediate environment on a local and global level in an interesting and creative way.

UK Curriculum links:

Art and design key stage 3

The 'From our window' project fits in well with the key concepts of Art and design at Key Stage 3.

1.4 Critical understanding

Exploring visual, tactile and other sensory qualities of their own and others' work.

1.2 Competence

Investigating, analysing, designing, making, reflecting and evaluating effectively.

1.1 Creativity

Exploring and experimenting with ideas, materials, tools and techniques.

Geography key stage 3

This project also ties in with the key concept of Geography at Key Stage 3.

1.7 Cultural understanding and creativity

Appreciating the differences and similarities between people, places, environments and cultures to inform their understanding of societies and economies.

Cross-curriculum dimensions:

The 'From our window' project engages students in the following cross-curricular dimensions:

Technology and the media

Students use technology safely and responsibly.

Giving students the opportunity to use technology to personalise learning, working at different times, in different places and with a wide audience.

Creativity and critical thinking

If team work: collaborate with other learners through negotiation, modification and compromise.

Opportunity to demonstrate their creativity by developing ideas, refine, modify and develop ideas, work, performances or products to ensure they are of real value.

Opportunity to discover and pursue particular interests and talents. Think and act creatively, using their imagination to explore the unfamiliar and make unlikely connections



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Personal, Learning and Thinking Skills:

The 'From our window' project helps learners develop the following PLTS areas:

Team workers: collaborate with others to work towards common goals and reach agreements

Creative thinkers: generate ideas and explore possibilities

Key language:

This project could be used to reinforce the learning of:

There is/there are...

Vocabulary used to describe the school environment (such as classrooms, playground, sports field etc)

Vocabulary used to talk about seasons and climate (spring, summer, flowers, clouds, sunshine etc)

The **English language** used in the 'From our window' project can be supported and extended through the following links from British Council's Learning English website:

Seasons around the world - Reading plus activities

<http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/practise-your-english/seasons-around-the-world>

Listen to the song about seasons and then do the activity. (Also with discussion questions about seasons to promote discussion).

<http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/songs/the-leaves-the-tree>

Reading gap-fill activity about seasons in Japan.

Explore the other places in the school - not just the classrooms. (in the gym, school-field etc.)

<http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/language-games/read-and-choose/school>