

Our World, Our Futures: Children's global citizenship for sustainability using arts and digital practices in schools in the UK and the Maldives

Information about the research

The study will connect researchers, eight primary school teachers and their classes in two countries - the UK and the Maldives - to develop and evaluate an exciting cross-curricular Environmental Education and Global Citizenship project. Through sharing art, literacy and digital media, via a secure, moderated online platform, children will tell each other about the spaces in which they live, learn to understand one another's perspectives, and take action for a better future as global citizens. The study aims at understanding the effect of this project on children's learning and global citizenship and on teachers' professional development. There are four phases to the study:

Phase 1 (January to March 2023): Supported by a team of researchers with an interest and expertise in various aspects of education, teachers will learn about one another's contexts and collaboratively plan the classroom projects. An art workshop will provide inspiration and resources. Teachers will have the flexibility to plan the classroom projects in ways that meet their pupils' needs and curriculum requirements.

Phase 2 (Between March and July 2023): The projects will run in the classrooms (teachers will decide on timings to suit their setting). Researchers will collect data in the following ways:

- two further online group workshops with teachers for reflecting on the project and its impact (one mid-project and one at the end)
- a classroom observation (1 hour approx.) with short discussions with up to ten pupils, at a time to be agreed with the teacher
- a semi-structured interview with each teacher immediately after the classroom discussion
- collection of children's work (subject to children's assent and parental consent)
- collection of documents created by teachers, e.g. lesson plans, evaluations etc.

Phase 3 (June to August 2023): Researchers will analyse the data. If teachers wish, they may be involved in this phase, with an online meeting to discuss early analyses and emerging findings.

Phase 4 (July to December 2023): Dissemination, public engagement etc. Teachers may also choose to take part in this phase. Plans are:

- exhibitions of children's project work at Oxford Brookes University and The Maldives National University
- development of a bespoke website with information about the study and a selection of the children's work
- writing of articles, policy briefs and presentations at schools or academic conferences

Funding

This project is funded by an Oxford Brookes University Research Excellence Award. To support teachers' participation, funding is available for supply cover, attendance at an art workshop, and art materials and equipment.

Ethics

We have planned the study carefully with ethics in mind. Teachers, parents and children will be fully informed about the project and their rights as participants. We stress that there is no obligation to participate, and that should any individual decide to stop participating, they may do so without consequence simply by informing one of the researchers. The research has been reviewed and approved by the Oxford Brookes University Ethics Committee (UREC registration number 221615).

Confidentiality and anonymity

Pseudonyms will be used for all children involved in the project and all content that might be used to identify a child, the school or its exact location will be removed from children's work before it is included in any publication. We recognise that some teachers may wish for their real names to appear on publications, including the project website, if they are involved as co-authors. As head teacher, you will be asked whether you give consent (or wish to withhold consent) for teachers' real names to be used in this way.

For more information please email cypnetwork@brookes.ac.uk or clairelee@brookes.ac.uk.