

Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 23 January 2024

Hong Kong Scotland School Improvement Partnership (HKSSIP)

Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Education, Children and Families committee is asked to:
 - 1.1.1 Note the content of this report.

Amanda Hatton

Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services

Contact: Stephen Kelly, Head of Education (Seconded) SE

Curriculum & Senior Phase

E-mail: Stephen.kelly@edinburgh.gov.uk

Report

Hong Kong Scotland School Improvement Partnership (HKSSIP)

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report provides information about opportunities for Edinburgh secondary schools to develop partnerships with schools in Hong Kong.

3. Background

- 3.1 The programme has been devised by Archie McGlynn, former Chief Inspector of Schools in Scotland. On retirement from HMIE, Archie took up a post in the Ministry of Education in Hong Kong and developed a quality improvement framework based on How Good is Our School. In 2016 Archie and three Edinburgh schools (Boroughmuir, James Gillespie's and the Royal High School) formed an international collaboration between Scotland and Hong Kong on school improvement. The programme ran until the pandemic with visits from Hong Kong Schools to Edinburgh on 3 occasions and 1 visit of Edinburgh Schools to Hong Kong (fully funded by the Swire Chinese Language Centre Edinburgh). All the Hong Kong schools are state run schools.

4. Main report

- 4.1 The Hong Kong schools expressed an interest in resurrecting the programme and contacted the Headteacher of Boroughmuir. 13 Edinburgh High Schools also expressed an interest in taking part in a supported and focused programme of international collaboration around school improvement.
- 4.2 In November 2023 these 13 schools hosted visitors, Headteachers and Deputies, from their partner schools and engaged in sharing practice and collaborative professional development.
- 4.3 Hong Kong has a high Performing school system working in a context that has been addressing poverty related gaps in school performance. This international school improvement partnership would provide a unique professional learning opportunity through comparing and contrasting approaches in the different contexts and cultures.

The partnership has the potential to extend and involve learners to collaborate and learn from pupils in another part of the world. Edinburgh is an international city; this would contribute to learners' development as global citizens.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The 13 Edinburgh secondary schools will develop partnerships with identified schools in Hong Kong (see Appendix 1) and explore the opportunities to share practice in how we raise attainment in literacy and numeracy; closing the poverty related attainment gap; structures for supporting health and wellbeing of our young people. The schools involved will also be developing approaches that will facilitate our learners to connect with learners in Hong Kong schools via Teams.
- 5.2 The schools involved will explore funding and sponsorship options to facilitate visits for staff and pupils to their partner schools in Hong Kong.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 There are no financial implications contained in this report.

7. Equality and Poverty Impact

- 7.1 Educational opportunities from this partnership will be open to all learners in the participating schools.

8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications

- 8.1 Any partnership visits will be subject to the local authority guidance on school excursions which takes climate and nature emergency impact into consideration.

9. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact

- 9.1 The governance of this project will be through the Pathways and Wider Achievement Board. A report on Pathways will be brought to ECF in 2024. Guidance on travelling to Hong Kong will be risk managed via the School Excursions Toolkit and subject to scrutiny, in the case of Hong Kong, travelling to Hong Kong will be risk managed via the School Excursions Toolkit and all potential cyber security risks will be considered in consultation with the Council's Cyber Security Manager.

10. Background reading/external references

11. Appendices

11.1 Appendix 1 Partner School List

Appendix 1

Edinburgh Schools	Hong Kong Schools
Balerno Community High School	Creative Secondary School
Boroughmuir High School	Ying Wa College
Craigroyston Community High School	TWGHs C Y Ma Memorial College
Forrester High School	TWGHs Mrs. Wu York Yu Memorial College
Knox Academy Susan Cook	Tsung Tsin Christian Academy
Leith Academy	TWGHs Kap Yan Directors' College
Liberton High School	Wong Shiu Chi Secondary School
James Gillespie's High School	St Paul's Co-educational College
Royal High School	HKTA The Yuen Yuen Institute No1 Sec School
St Augustine's High School	TWGHs Li Ka Shing College
St. George's School for Girls	St Paul's Convent School
St. Thomas Aquin's High School	TWGHs Mrs. Fung Wong Fung Ting College
Trinity Academy	TWGHs Lee Ching Dea Memorial College
Craigmount High School Queensferry HS	Both schools part of HKSSIP Awaiting partners. Part of Programme as host schools for groups