

We are currently recruiting for the academic year 2025-26 Manchester Schools Linking Programme!!

HOME are delighted to be working with The Linking Network for the fourth year running and we would love your school to be part of it. Through the Manchester Schools Linking Programme we will be delivering a diverse range of exciting, creative activities in schools and connecting hundreds of children and young people across Manchester.

Schools Linking is supported by [The Linking Network](#) and backed by the DfE, DLUHC, Pears Foundation and the Dulverton Trust. It is rooted in research into what works in reducing prejudice in children and young people and has been running since 2001. Here is a [short video](#) of facilitators around the country, talking about the impact of Schools Linking.

Schools Linking connects your school with another school in your area, creating a year-long, curriculum-rich link between the two. This builds togetherness and confidence in contact with others. This fully resourced programme has link teachers plan their year together, with the intent to support pupils in exploring identity, celebrating diversity, promoting community and championing equality.

This year we will again be working with Key Stage 2, specifically year 4. If your year 3 /4 classes are mixed, we would still love to hear from you!

How does School Linking work?

| When | Activity | |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| By 7 July 2025 | Sign up to the programme (form link below) and HOME will pair you with another school | |
| Phase 1 – Autumn Term | Theme: personal and group identity and diversity Half-day teacher CPD at HOME You will use the Linking Network's resources to lead sessions in your school, during your usual lesson time | |
| Phase 2 – Spring Term | Theme: shared values and social action Half-day teacher CPD at HOME | You visit your paired school, and they visit you Visit 1: a whole day led by HOME's artist facilitators |
| Phase 3 – Summer Term | Theme: reflect and goodbye! Here we offer resources including: games, online theatre, drama, storytelling, poetry, Sign Supported English, PowerPoints, lesson plans and handouts | |

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| | Linking Network celebration week at the end of summer term | Visit 2: arranged between you and your paired school, and led by you using Linking School's resources |
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Helpful Things to Know

- There is no charge to take part
- HOME will be available to answer questions, host the CPD days and iron out any challenges you may face along the way
- The Schools Linking programme is designed to fit within the curriculum, and not to be extra work! The themes could fit into PSHE lessons, and the activities could be done in short timeframes
- Once you are linked with your paired school it is expected that both teachers will engage with each other independently and maintain regular contact, working collaboratively to create a fulfilling link
- If there is a school you would like to be paired with, please let us know, we are happy to facilitate requests
- You will have to arrange your own transport to and from your paired school, HOME will try to ensure there is not a lengthy journey involved
- HOME welcomes applications from all schools, including SEN schools
- You are responsible for ensuring that your link works within your school's safeguarding policies

Dates for Your Diary

- **Tuesday 24th June 2025, 3:30pm – 4:30pm** – HOME will hold a Teams meeting for anyone interested in taking part in the programme. This will be informal and an opportunity to simply drop-in and ask any questions.

Joining link

Meeting ID: 367 681 624 96

Passcode: J9pG7Gt7

- **Monday 7th July 2025** – Deadline for expressions of interest.
- **Thursday 5th October 2025, 12:30-4pm** – CPD 1 at HOME.
- **Thursday 5th February 2026, 12:30-4pm** – CPD 2 at HOME.

If you would like to take part in Schools Linking again this year, please complete the online form here: <https://forms.office.com/e/ZYXq5tJWXz>

Please return the form no later than **7th July 2025**

If there is a school you would like to be paired with, please do let us know through the [Expression of Interest form](#).

If you would like a further conversation, please do get in touch