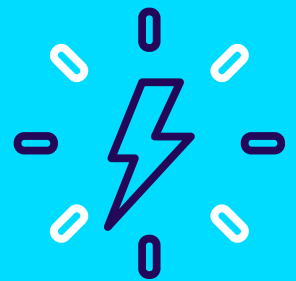


Schools Connect

United By Music



In collaboration with:



The Music
Education Hub
for Liverpool

Introduction

On 13 May 2023, the city of Liverpool hosts the Eurovision Song Contest on behalf of Ukraine.

This resource celebrates the special event by supporting schools in the UK and Ukraine to work together in partnership, and connect and collaborate through music. The activities within are designed to help primary and secondary teachers bring an intercultural dimension to learning and to strengthen their students' cultural understanding, well-being and international perspectives through creativity.

Central to this resource is a song composed by pupils from All Saints Catholic Primary School, in Liverpool, in collaboration with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic. The song, *Don't Judge a Book*, focuses on the importance of friendship, inclusion, diversity and community – all values at the heart the Eurovision Song Contest. By learning the song and exploring these themes in partnership, pupils will develop a deeper understanding of the rich language, geography and culture of their partner school.

The materials are designed to be flexible and adaptable to a single class or a whole school, and are suitable for both primary and secondary schools.

This resource is for schools working together in international partnerships. Whether you want to increase understanding of global issues or enhance language learning, a school partnership can help you better engage pupils, reinforce existing projects, introduce new teaching approaches and, ultimately, improve learner outcomes. If you're looking for an international partner school, the British Council's partner finding tool can help you find the best fit for you, by connecting you with schools across the world all looking to start an international collaboration. For more information see www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources/partner/find-partner

Activities

Preparing for activities

Before starting the activities, you could create a page on Padlet, or a similar online sharing platform, to collate and share all information with your partner school. Make this private, so only those with a link can view it, and remember to set yourself as the 'comments moderator'. For more guidance on working safely online, see the **Links and additional resources** section. Decide with your partner school which activities you will both complete and agree a timeline for sharing activities and collaborating.

1. The Eurovision Song Contest

Introduce the Eurovision Song Contest to pupils by asking: *which yearly event hosts musicians from around the world to sing a song in English or their own language?*

To introduce Ukraine, ask: *who won the 2022 Eurovision Song Contest?* The Kalush Orchestra won, performing *Stefania*. You may wish to play a short clip of the song (see the **Links and additional resources** section).

- Ask pupils what they think listeners around the world enjoyed about the song: the beat, the lyrics, the message/theme, the style or the visual impact?

Now introduce the UK by asking: *which country came second and with what song?* This was the UK's Sam Ryder, with the song *Space Man*. Again, you may wish to play a short clip of the song and ask pupils what they think listeners around the world enjoyed about it (see the **Links and additional resources** section).

- Ask pupils to think of a song that is meaningful to them and to discuss why (it might be a pop song or a traditional/folk song). Send a link to the song (e.g., a YouTube video) to your partner school, explaining why this song is meaningful/special/important.
- Tell your partner school what you liked most about their song and ask any questions your pupils have about the song.

You may wish to talk to pupils about why the Eurovision Song Contest is not being held in Ukraine, or they may ask about this. Conflict can be a difficult topic to explore with children, but there are several online sources that provide guidance on how to help young people understand and respond to what's happening in Ukraine (see the **Links and additional resources** section).

2. United By Music

Now introduce pupils to the song, *Don't Judge a Book*, which was created by pupils at All Saints Catholic Primary School, in Liverpool. The lyrics deal with important aspects of the personal, social, health and emotional aspects of the curriculum: self-image, the judging of people, discrimination, conflict and hatred. You can find more background on *Don't Judge a Book* at the end of this resource.

- Read the lyrics with pupils and highlight key themes, such as inclusion, diversity, kindness and community.
- Ask pupils to think about the ethos and values of their own school. What aspects would they write a song about and why? Share these ideas with your partner school. Does your partner school have similar ideas?
- Now it's time to learn the song, *Don't Judge a Book!* The lyrics, a vocal score with piano accompaniment and chords for guitar, and a backing track can be downloaded from the links in the **Links and additional resources** section. Take your time to learn the song. When ready, record a video of pupils singing the song and share this with your partner school.

To celebrate your school partnership, join our online Eurovision schools' concert on 12 May 2023. At this special event, you'll get to sing the song along with children from All Saints Catholic Primary School accompanied by musicians from the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. Further information and joining instructions will be provided.

3. Getting to know one another better

These activities are designed to help you get to know your partner school better, and to develop an understanding of the similarities and differences between your schools and localities. There are three options – you can choose one or complete them all.

- Draw pictures, take photos or record a short film illustrating what daily life is like in your school. You might want to describe what you have for lunch and where you eat, what your classroom is like, or the view from your classroom window. Be creative! You could add the drawings, photos or short films to your Padlet page.
- Have fun collecting and taking photographs of items that illustrate your school, local community, country and culture. Share them with your partner school. Do you have any questions about your partner school's items?

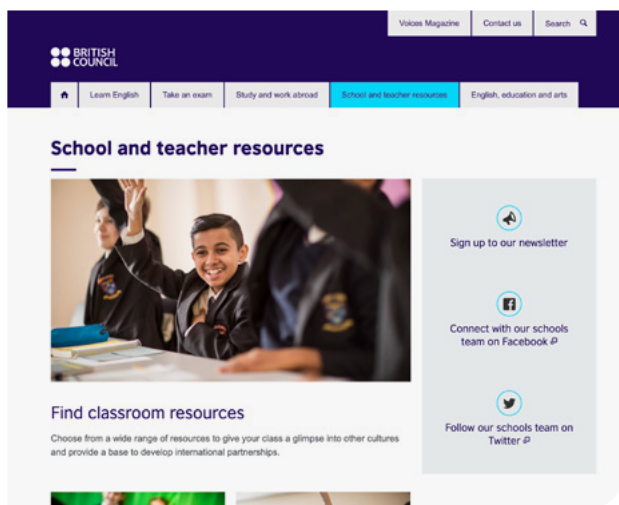
For example, pupils at Lockerbie Primary School, in Scotland, and their partner school Al Shurooq School, in Bethlehem, exchanged photos of a variety of objects that were important to them, as a way of finding out about each other's localities and cultures. They included images of Scottish and Palestinian flags, copies of poems by the poet Robert Burns, a Palestinian keffiyeh, pictures of olive oil – olives are a major crop in the Palestinian Territories – and haggis – the national food of Scotland!

- Record sounds from around your school: the sound of the dinner hall during breaktime, birds singing outside or a music lesson. You could create soundscapes (picture and sounds) of your school and community. Share these with your partner school. Are the sounds each school collected similar or different?

Do your pupils have any questions about the information shared by your partner school? Add them as a comment to your partner's Padlet page, or arrange to meet online for a question-and-answer session.



Next steps



Resources

The British Council offers a range of resources, guidance and learning opportunities for every step of your partnership journey. Browse our bank of classroom resources for inspiration and help with planning your next joint project at:

www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources



International School Award

The International School Award recognises schools that have shown a commitment to embedding international awareness and understanding within their class or school. It provides a framework to develop international activities across the curriculum, including collaborative work with international partner schools and opportunities to involve the wider community. By collaborating with a partner school as part of the United By Music project, and in doing so completing one curriculum-based international activity enhancing pupils' understanding of other countries, cultures and global issues, you will be eligible to apply for Foundation level! As your International School Award journey continues, you'll learn new ways to develop and embed international education in your school. Find out more at:

www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources/accreditation/international-school-award

Links and additional resources

Preparing for activities

Padlet:

en-gb.padlet.com/

British Council's Online Safety Advice for 8 – 12 Year Olds: <https://tinyurl.com/4np9rk8j>

British Council's Online Safety Advice for 13+ year olds: <https://tinyurl.com/yr26me4a>

Department for Education's Teaching online safety in schools: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-and-remote-education>

The Eurovision Song Contest

Kalush Orchestra performing Stefania:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1fl60ypdLs

Sam Ryder performing Space Man:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZ0hqX_92zI

The BBC's Talking About Ukraine and Russia:

www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/changing-lives/useful-resources-for-talking-about-ukraine-and-russia/

Oxfam's Talking about Ukraine in School:

views-voices.oxfam.org.uk/2022/03/talking-about-ukraine-in-school-here-are-eight-ways-to-help-young-people-learn-think-and-act/

United By Music

Don't Judge a Book song lyrics and score:

<https://tinyurl.com/3ykpvv4x>

Don't Judge a Book backing track:

<https://tinyurl.com/mpjadayp>

Please note, the backing track has been provided for rehearsal purposes only and should not be shared on social media.



Background of Don't Judge a Book

Composed by Year 6 pupils at All Saints Catholic Primary School, Anfield, in Liverpool.

All Saints Catholic Primary School is one of four schools partnering with Liverpool Philharmonic to deliver In Harmony Liverpool. Now in its fourteenth year, this project uses orchestral music-making to improve the life chances of children with the greatest needs and fewest resources. Music is embedded in the school, and creativity is at the heart of the curriculum.

The curriculum and ethos at All Saints Catholic Primary School also place great emphasis on the application of learning in real-life contexts, for example, within the wider community. Pupils are encouraged to reach out to others to share their learning and support the common good.

Don't Judge a Book is a great example of pupils coming together to write lyrics that deal with the personal, social, health and emotional aspects of the curriculum: self-image, the judging of people, discrimination and hatred. They also wanted to recognise the dangers of the conflict in Ukraine and how communities should live in peace.

The pupils came up with the interesting concept of books and reading – hence the use of words such as 'pages', 'chapters' and 'sentences' in the song. They decided on a melody and rhythm, and their head teacher turned this into a series of chord patterns.

Next, they met with Tim Jackson, composer and Principal Horn with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, who provided tips and guidance. They went back and built a structure to the song, and added a third section – known as a 'bridge'. From a piano and vocal demo, Tim was able to add instrumentation and harmonies.

The whole process captures the aims and mission of both the school and the In Harmony project. The pupils have combined their developing skills and knowledge to create something that has value for their community, their city – and maybe even the world!

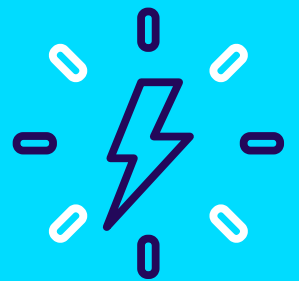
Without the strong partnership between the school and Liverpool Philharmonic, it's unlikely this would have been possible. But with it, as this song so clearly demonstrates, anything is possible.

Jeremy Barnes, Headteacher, All Saints Catholic Primary School, Liverpool

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