



International School Award

Press release

(October 2025)

British Council International School Award success for Cleves Cross Primary School

Cleves Cross Primary in *Ferryhill* has been awarded the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of its work to bring the world into the classroom.

The International School Award celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need for life work in today's world.

Cleves Cross's international work includes:

- The international dimension is firmly established in our school's curriculum and whole-school ethos, promoting citizenship and foreign language learning, and celebrating cultural diversity across the school and wider community.
- We have active links with schools in Gran Canaria, Sri Lanka and Thailand which are providing rich learning opportunities for both pupils and staff.
- Weekly teaching includes the requisite element of foreign language learning (Spanish) supported by our partner school in Gran Canaria.

On hearing the news that Cleves Cross had received the award again Mrs Brentnall, Headteacher said "We are absolutely delighted that the hard work of staff and students has been accredited and recognised by the organisation. The work we do promotes an

understanding of a variety of cultures, languages, and traditions and in doing so we aim to enrich the lives of both our students and those who we work with for a globalised world.”

Scott McDonald, Chief Executive of the British Council, said: ‘The school has earned this prestigious award through its inspirational international work and links with schools abroad. The International School Award is a chance for schools to be recognised for their important work bringing the world into their classrooms. This is especially commendable when schools have been deeply affected by the global pandemic. The desire to build on their international work shines through and it is with upmost pride that we celebrate their achievements. By embedding an international dimension in children’s education, these schools are preparing their students for successful lives in the UK or further afield, empowering them to be global citizens, and are creating vital opportunities in an increasingly global economy.’

The Award is now available worldwide in countries such as Egypt, Nigeria, Pakistan and Taiwan. Over 6000 International School Awards have been presented to successful schools in the UK since the scheme began in 1999.

The International School Award encourages and supports schools to develop:

- An international ethos embedded throughout the school
- A whole school approach to international work
- Collaborative curriculum-based work with a number of partner schools
- Year-round international activity
- Involvement of the wider community