

Enabling Effective Support in the East Midlands

Enabling Effective Support (EES) is a six-year DFID initiative, which aims to make more effective DFID's support for development education in schools and to move development education forward in UK schools. Over the last two years, Skillshare has been at the centre of the development of the EES process in the East Midlands region. In partnership with local education authorities and development education centres, Skillshare International coordinated the process of bringing together key players in development education within the region. Creating an environment for organisations to work together and successfully develop a joint strategy was a vital part of the work that saw the East Midlands Network for Global Perspectives in Schools (EMNGPS) come into existence

The implementation phase of the strategy began in April 2003. Skillshare International has provided strategic leadership and management of the resources for schools within the Steering Committee, and has also hosted the EMNGPS Coordinator.

Skillshare International's participation within the network has evolved into a dual role. At one level, it facilitates the organisational growth and capacity building of the network and its future sustainability. At another level it acts as a provider to support teacher in-service activities, contributing information and materials from the development awareness programme to network members and teachers interested in this area. These have been particularly relevant within the locality groups in Nottingham, Leicestershire, Derby and Lincolnshire. Skillshare supported 4 locality groups planning activities with schools. Seven sessions were supported in these regions (Nottingham, Leicestershire and Derbyshire). In each session with teachers, information about Skillshare International was circulated including the support and information they could get to bring a global perspective into their school from the Skillshare International development awareness programme.

This new partnership gives Skillshare International valuable learning experience in developing more effective ways to engage with educational institutions to reach a wider target groups, developing resources based on projects with partner organisations to support this learning into core curriculum.