

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE - 5 September 2000

EUROPEAN ACTIVITIES IN EAST AYRSHIRE SCHOOLS

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To advise Elected Members of a range of developments in European activities comprising the award of European funding through the Socrates Comenius programme to Annanhill Primary School and Auchinleck Academy and their European partners, and the establishment at Grange Academy of a European Enterprise Education Centre.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Teaching staff at Annanhill Primary School have been able, through visits arranged by the Quality Development Team using European Lingua funding, to develop good working relationships with the École Élémentaire Jules Ferry in Mauriac in France and with the École Primaire in Echternach in Luxembourg. Auchinleck Academy has been able to develop a cross-curricular project entitled "Living and Learning in Europe" with their European partners: the Collèges Paul Valéry in Metz and Claude Le Lorrain in Nancy in France and St Eunan's and St Columba's Colleges in Donegal in Eire.
- 2.2** As a result of the success of initial contacts between schools, the schools have made successful applications for European funding under the Socrates Comenius scheme for initial visits by staff and have now each been awarded the sums of Ecu 3,000 for 3 years to enable the school to take forward curriculum projects.
- 2.3** East Ayrshire Educational and Social Services Department wishes to further develop the European dimension within its schools by building on projects such as those described above and its long-standing involvement in education for enterprise. In partnership with Grange Academy, Kilmarnock College and Scottish Enterprise, the Department aims to set up a centre which will put the expertise of staff in the authority at the disposal of visiting European teachers and students, school boards, parents and teachers and the business community within East Ayrshire.

3. THE COMENIUS PROJECTS

- 3.1** These projects will encourage pupils in every class from Nursery to S2 to contribute to the preparation of booklets, videos, audio-cassettes and websites describing life in school and in the wider community of groups of young people involved in the arts and in ICT. The young people will also communicate by writing reports, interviewing local people, making presentations on video and conducting surveys. Their knowledge of e-mail, fax, telephone video-conferencing and the internet will also be developed through the project.
- 3.2** The projects are inclusive: it will allow pupils of all ages and abilities to play a part. They are international, with work being done in English, French and German. And they will contribute to the international education of the children taking part by expanding their knowledge of their own country and its culture and developing their appreciation of the heritage of other countries.

4. THE ENTERPRISE CENTRE

- 4.1** The Department will host a series of Enterprise activities for European partners in the centre at Grange Academy, training teachers to deliver Enterprise Education and training groups of young people in entrepreneurial activities.
- 4.2** Courses will be held in accommodation set aside by Grange Academy for the purpose and will be run by staff of the establishment and the authority's Enterprise staff under the supervision of a member of the Senior Management Team of the school and the Quality Development Team.
- 4.3** During courses, teachers from other schools in Europe will have the opportunity to talk to students working in enterprise classes and participating in Achievers International in a wide range of educational establishments, as well as Grange Academy. They will also have the opportunity to visit students on work experience.
- 4.4** The projects above will be coordinated by the Head Teachers of Annanhill Primary School, Auchinleck Academy and Grange Academy. They will be evaluated annually by the Head Teacher and the Quality Development Team.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** There are no financial implications for the authority in these projects.

6. LEGAL AUTHORITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** Not applicable.

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The project arises from and supports the Council's core values and major strategies.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that elected members:-

- (i) approve this initiative described;
- (ii) invite the Director to report back in due course; and
- (iii) otherwise note the contents of this paper.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

JN/NG
28 August 2000

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Any person wishing further information should telephone Graham Short, Head of Schools, (01563) 576192 or Kenneth McKinlay, Principal, Quality Development (01563) 555650.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: GRAHAM SHORT, HEAD OF SCHOOLS

AGENDA