Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

1. What is connecting classrooms?
   Connecting Classrooms is the British Council’s global education programme for schools, co-funded by the British Council and the UK’s Department for International Development. For details click here.

2. What are Core Skills?
   British Council consulted a range of stakeholders, drew upon research on the deep pedagogies framework\(^1\) and UNESCO’s transversal skills\(^2\) and then decided to focus on supporting teachers develop their pedagogy in the following six core skills and competencies.

   **Ways of Working**
   - Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
   - Creativity and Imagination

   **Ways of living**
   - Student Leadership and Personal Development
   - Citizenship

   **Enablers**
   - Digital Literacy
   - Communication and Collaboration

   These skills as listed above have often also been referred to as Life Skills, 21\(^{st}\) Century Skills etc. depending upon country and context. British Council believes Core Skills have to be strongly embedded local cultural context and curriculum along with literacy and numeracy skills. For further details click here.

3. Who can participate?
   Primary, secondary and high secondary schools from private and public sector can participate in this programme. Currently British Council is working with more than 3,000 schools across Pakistan.

4. What are the registration criteria?
   Registered schools meeting the following criteria can be registered for this programme:
   - Should be registered with local/international body/board
   - Minimum 250 students are enrolled
   - At least eight teachers are serving the school
   - Should have reasonable building infrastructure basic facilities
   - Equipped with Reasonable IT infrastructure and access to internet
   - Teaching staff with a sufficient level of English to facilitate communication with international school
   - Willing to establish links with the international schools

5. How can I register my school?
   Click here and fill the simple online registration form to register your school/network. Please make sure to provide updated and correct mailing address, email address, and contact numbers.

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6. What benefit my school will get from this programme?
   - Teachers will be able to create great learning experiences for pupils that support the development of core skills.
   - Teachers will be able to draw upon a wide range of free resources to nurture core skills in their learners.
   - Teachers will be able to network with and find peer support from like-minded colleagues locally and globally.
   - School leaders will be able to foster innovation and use of a range of teaching strategies in their schools, thus enhancing the quality of teaching and learning.
   - School leaders will be able to improve their own instructional leadership through mentoring their own staff and wider teaching community.

7. How I will be contacted by British Council after registration?
   Shortlisting will be done by the British Council and shortlisted schools will be contacted by 13 September 2017.

8. Is there any registration fee?
   Initial registration is free. Only shortlisted schools will be invited to orientation session. One school management representative and one nominated teacher will be invited to attend the orientation session.

   After attending the orientation session, each school branch will be requested to pay the registration fee of PKR 7,500/- for participation in further activities.

9. What is included in the package?
   The registration fee will entitle participation of:
   - **Free access** to all digital resources and online training courses
   - **Opportunity** for teachers and head teachers to participate in the Core Skills workshop
   - **Opportunities** for schools to win British Council’s prestigious International School Award
   - **Opportunity** to build online school partnership with schools from the UK and 182 other countries

10. Where these trainings will take place
    The training will take place in your own city. The British Council will arrange for the training venue, refreshments, stationery, training material, IT equipment, etc.

    The participants will have to make their own arrangements for travel to and from the training venue.

11. Who will deliver these training?
    The workshops will be delivered by British Council globally validated trainers.
12. What is International school award (ISA)?

The British Council International School Award supports your school in embedding international learning into the curriculum. Working towards it gives pupils and teachers a new perspective on the world, and the skills to work in a global economy.

- It Creates links between teachers from other countries, facilitating the sharing of best practice and the development of new skills
- Curriculum based activities
- Focuses on global citizenship and embedding internationalism in curriculum and school ethos

13. How my school will be benefited from ISA?

International work gives schools the opportunity to develop, improve and learn from new colleagues around the world. It exposes educators to new practises and perspectives, their professional development and as such raising teaching standards. While for young people it provides a window into different cultures and countries, preparing them for life in a global society.

- The ISA accreditation is for three years
- Certificate, shield and use of ISA logo (in any publication by the school) for three years
- Acknowledgement of high standards of international work
- Accredited schools can become “champion ambassadors”
- An enriched curriculum and a whole school ethos
- Raising the school’s profile

14. How can I apply for ISA award?

All registered schools will initially take part in orientation session by the British Council after which they will submit an action plan. Once this action plan is approved by the British Council, the schools can start their work. Support from the British Council will be available throughout the year.

At the end of the period, the schools will submit their portfolio to the British Council for evaluation.