

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

23 JANUARY 2014

Report by Director of Education

GLOBAL AWARD FOR THE EAST RENFREWSHIRE CONFUCIUS HUB

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of the report is to advise elected members of the recent success of the East Renfrewshire Confucius Hub, based in St Ninian's High School, which has been recognised by the Chinese Ministry of Education (Hanban) as the Global Confucius Hub of the Year 2013.

RECOMMENDATION

2. Members are asked to note the success of the East Renfrewshire Hub and the positive impact its work has had in terms of promoting the learning of Mandarin and greater awareness of Chinese culture.

BACKGROUND

3. There are approximately 15 Confucius Hubs across Scotland, established as part of the international relationship between the Scottish and Chinese Governments. They are centrally administered by the Confucius Institute for Scottish Schools based at Strathclyde University and their purpose is to develop and promote the teaching of Chinese language (in the main Mandarin) and culture.

4. Annual funding to support the work of the Confucius Hubs is provided by the Hanban.

5. The East Renfrewshire Confucius Hub was established in March 2010 in St Ninian's High School. A permanent Chinese teacher was appointed to the school and the opportunity to begin the study of Mandarin and Chinese cultural awareness was offered to pupils in St Ninian's High School and its associated primary schools, including lunchtime and after school activities.

REPORT

6. Over the last three and a half years, the success and scope of the Hub has grown considerably.

7. In addition to the permanent Chinese teacher at St Ninian's, we have two seconded teachers from China who work across schools, and plan to appoint another permanent teacher of Mandarin to the authority in session (2013/14).

8. We currently have provision across six secondary schools and a growing number of primary schools and it is our intention to be able to offer provision to all seven school clusters when capacity allows.

9. The key successes of the East Renfrewshire Hub are:

- the outstanding SQA results at all levels (Access through to Advanced Higher);
- the way in which the teaching of Chinese cultural awareness is delivered across a range of curricular areas;
- the lunchtime and after school Chinese clubs and activities, and,
- the Primary 7 programme which offers 'First Steps in Mandarin'.

10. We have also had a number of pupils participating in, and some winning, British Council Mandarin speaking competitions at UK level and have two pupils, one from St Ninian's High School and one from Mearns Castle High School, who have been awarded scholarships to study Mandarin in Tianjin in academic session 2013/14.

11. As a result of these successes, the East Renfrewshire Hub was chosen as one of two Scottish Hubs of the Year 2013 (Fife being the other). Representatives from both were invited to the recent World Confucius Conference 2013 in Beijing, to compete against 500 Hubs worldwide for the title of Global Hub of the Year 2013.

12. The East Renfrewshire Hub was then selected as the winner of this prestigious award and John Docherty, Head Teacher at the Hub school, St Ninian's High, was presented with the award in front of 2,500 delegates across 118 countries worldwide.

FINANCIAL AND EFFICIENCY IMPLICATIONS

13. There are no financial and efficiency implications related to this report.

RECOMMENDATION

14. Members are asked to note the success of the East Renfrewshire Hub and the positive impact its work has had in terms of promoting the learning of Mandarin and greater awareness of Chinese culture.

Mhairi Shaw
Director of Education
January 2014

Convener Contact Details

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Key Words

This report relates to the success of the East Renfrewshire Confucius Hub.
Key words include: Confucius Hub, Mandarin, Chinese culture St. Ninian's, Global Award 2013