

Running the **Walk4Hope** to support **The Literacy in a Box Trust**



Rationale:

- Children love helping their less fortunate colleagues overseas and often enjoy doing this as they learn of their ways of life.
- Rotary should be nurturing our school children to be future Rotarians, so need to engage with schools to offer service programmes of mutual benefit.
- Schools have a need to engage with the local business community which should enhance their ability to deliver their curriculum.

The **Literacy Box** can be the **catalyst** to enable the above,
- the **School Video** and **Walk4Hope** the tools to use.

Organising the **Walk4Hope**:

The **Walk4Hope** is a wonderful way for pupils to 'act out' what it must be like for the Zambian children who walk miles to and from school each day. It is also an opportunity for Rotary to work in its community and engage with local schools to mutual benefit, but hopefully, the real winners will be the children of Zambia, for whom the walk is being staged to pay for **Literacy Boxes** which will help their education. Each school will have a different feel for what they want from the walk, some will want to run a series of lessons on Zambia BEFORE the walk, others will do it as a precursor for lessons AFTER the walk. However, the best chance of a successful outcome is for Club and school to be responsible for specific aspects of the organisation of the **Walk4Hope**

But first we need to Access a School:

Key to achieving any of the above synergy is a good working relationship with a school. This is difficult to do, so when making the first approach to the school ALWAYS seek to understand fully the needs of the school and ensure your Club's objective dovetails nicely. Keep things simple in all your dealings with them and please be patient – availability of your contact teacher in a school may be tricky at times to say the least!!!! The **School Video** is a useful tool for access, illustrating, as it does, an aspect of Rotary Service that resonates with the Primary school curriculum.

The Headmistress of Hyde Park Infants in Plymouth fed back to our partner, Roborough Rotary Club, how she sees the best way for Rotary to approach a school for partnership work. The powerpoint presentation she made to Roborough RC, after the very successful inaugural **Walk4Hope** last summer, is available through the following link:

[Rotary working with Schools](#)

The following is a simple checklist of responsibilities agreed by Roborough Rotary Club and Hyde Park School for the inaugural **Walk4Hope**.

It is up to the specific Club / School partnership to agree their own action list.

Roborough's responsibilities (with Hyde Park's agreement) :

- The 'outside arrangements' of choosing and setting up the venue for the walk – we used Buckland Abbey, a local National Trust property, which was very welcoming and helpful to our cause.
- Vetting the walk route, stewarding, refreshments and availability of relief stations.
- Advertising the event through local media and the creation of the poster specific for the event complete with sponsorship form. A PDF of the poster we used is available through the link [Poster and sponsorship form](#), and an editable word version is available through the link [Editable word version](#). A PDF of the sticker presented to children at the end of the walk is available through the link [Sticker](#)
- Creating a record of the event for subsequent PR (video and photos) Need to ensure that the school has identified those pupils who wish to be excluded from filming or having photos taken.
- The issue of stickers to pupils who have completed the walk. We can supply these to Clubs at a small cost plus postage to save you the cost of having to create them.
- Wash-up meeting and thank you letter etc to all involved at the participating school. **The Literacy in a Box Trust** will supply a 'Certificate of Appreciation' to the school to recognise their donation.
- Suggest another **Literacy Box** event for next year to give continuity to fundraising that we so much need to send out boxes on a regular basis.

Hyde Park School's responsibilities (with Club agreement) :

You will already have seen some of the more specific tasks of organising the **Walk4Hope** listed in the powerpoint accessed through the link [Rotary working with schools](#) Below is a list of the key tasks needed to be undertaken by a school.

- To gain maximal support for this sponsored awareness event, the school should be responsible for promoting the work of **the Literacy in a Box Trust** to staff, pupils and parents in the run up to the event, but to illustrate partnership, the Rotary Club should be invited to present on **Literacy Boxes** to the pupils. We have a **School Power Point**, if needed, or the **School Video** could be shown.
- Setting up and monitoring sponsorship is vital to maximising donation income and the sponsorship form needs to be totally user friendly for the school. As it is likely the Club will be creating the poster / sponsorship form, the school must ensure its layout is pupil friendly and that Gift Aid options are current viz a viz HMRC.
- Transport of staff and pupils to the walk could be an issue, but because the inaugural **Walk4Hope** was held outside of the school and school time, it was deemed to be the parents' responsibility to take pupils to and collect from the event.
- Application of Health and Safety criteria and the gaining of all relevant permissions is focal to the staging of a relaxed and enjoyable event.
- If the **Walk4Hope** has been successful, the school should be encouraged to help again, or at the very least work with the Club on other projects of mutual benefit.

If any support is needed please contact **the Literacy in a Box Trust** through their website on www.literacyboxtrust.org.uk

Thank you for your support.