

# Opportunities for schools that teach Japanese or have partnerships with schools in Japan

## Support for language learning

[Head Start course](#) A one-day basic introduction to Japanese combined with examination of the issues associated with introducing it in schools. Designed for secondary heads of MFL, primary languages coordinators and senior managers from schools wishing to introduce Japanese - whether fully timetabled or as an extra-curricular subject. **Japan Foundation**.

[Japanese teaching resources](#) can be borrowed by teachers of Japanese from the Japan Foundation's extensive [library](#) and via its website. This includes resources produced by teachers of Japanese and Japan Foundation language advisors and resources for specific levels and exams. All are readily available/downloadable for shared use. Teachers are welcome to visit the Japan Foundation for tailor-made advice from Japanese language advisors.

[Japanese immersion course](#) The **British Council** organises a 2-week immersion course in Japan for English schools. It consists of language lessons in the morning and cultural activities in the afternoon. The aim is give students a chance to use their language skills in an authentic environment, and gain an insight into Japanese culture.

[Foreign language assistants](#) Schools can apply to host a language assistant from Japan for one year. Language assistants work with the teacher in the classroom or on their own with small groups of students in order to help them gain confidence in Japanese. **British Council**

[eLanguages](#) Developed for the Department for Children, Schools and Families by the British Council, eLanguages is a new, easy-to-use, collaborative tool enabling teachers around the world to exchange classroom resources and build and present structured, reusable, curriculum-relevant projects. Ideal for language teachers, eLanguages promotes the principle of internationalism in education and nurtures in teachers and students a greater understanding of other cultures by allowing them to work closely with counterparts overseas. eLanguages is available in 18 language versions including Japanese.

[Japan Foundation Grant Programmes](#) The Japan Foundation offers annual grant programmes to support Japanese language teaching at schools and other institutions. For the latest information, please see the Japan Foundation's website. In the past, this has included donations of Japanese teaching resources, and training courses in Japan for those teaching Japanese.

## Professional development for teachers

[Courses in Japan](#) The Japan Foundation runs teacher training and language study courses in Japan, giving teachers a chance to improve their language skills and teaching methodology and produce resources, whilst deepening their knowledge of Japan. Training programmes are offered to both non-native and native-speaking teachers of Japanese from all sectors.

[Japanese Refresher Courses](#) The **Japan Foundation** runs an intensive one-week Summer Refresher Course for primary and secondary teachers who teach or are about to start teaching Japanese at UK schools, to help them refresh their Japanese.

[Other Courses for Teachers](#) The Japan Foundation regularly organises courses for non-native and native-speaking teachers of Japanese. These include training days about specific Japanese exams (e.g. GCSE, Asset, IB) which are run in cooperation with exams boards and other organisations, and workshops on using the CHIKARA resources for GCSE Japanese. For a full list of upcoming courses please see the Japan Foundation's website.

[Teacher INSET days](#) A programme of regular workshops for teachers is offered throughout the country. They aim to provide teachers with a wealth of practical curriculum-related ideas which can easily be translated to primary or secondary classrooms throughout the UK. **Japan Society** (incorporating Japan 21)

## Support for school partnerships

[Partner Finding](#) The **Japan Society** locates partner schools in Japan and supports both UK and Japanese schools as they develop their exchange activities, both through conventional methods and by utilising [Japan UK LIVE!](#), a bilingual internet site which enables pupils to communicate freely and creatively.

[District links](#) This funding exists to help the development of strategic area links. An area link may be between a local authority, an education action zone, a cluster of schools or any other group of schools working with an equivalent grouping in Japan. Funding is available for up to ten people to visit the partner area to develop educational partnerships at both an institutional and a strategic level, and to discuss future joint curriculum work between specific institutions. **British Council**

[School partnership visits](#) Funding is available for one member of staff to visit their Japanese partner school to establish and develop curriculum links which will enable collaborative work between the schools' students. **British Council**

[Joint curriculum projects with Japan](#) Schools in England can apply for funding to carry out a joint curriculum project with their partner school in Japan. Projects can be based on any area of the curriculum, but must involve students from both schools working together on a project of mutual benefit, and have a language element. A visit to Japan by the English pupils as part of the project is encouraged, but is not compulsory. **British Council**

[The Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation](#) provides support for curriculum-based student exchanges between schools in the UK and Japan. Funding is primarily through the Daiwa Foundation Small Grants programme, which makes available awards of £1,000-£5,000 and typically covers travel and subsistence costs.

[The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation](#) gives modest grant support to schools teaching Japanese language and/or studying about Japan as part of the humanities curriculum. They particularly welcome applications for funding towards school link or partnership visits but are happy to discuss other suitable projects with potential applicants. Full application details are on the website but contact by phone or e-mail prior to application is encouraged.

## Other

[Educational resources for schools](#) **Embassy of Japan**

**Resource packs** contain maps, posters, a fact-file leaflet, an informative booklet, a colourful magazine and other useful information to help bolster a school's resources on Japan and add some colour and authenticity to lessons. Free to download from the Embassy website.

**The Embassy's Choice** and **The Matsuri (Festival) Artefacts Sets** provide an opportunity for students to get a feel for Japan. They are ideal for Japan Days or supplementing lessons/projects on Japan. They contain items such as: yukata (summer cotton kimonos), happi festival coats, traditional toys; music CDs etc.

**Video and DVD collection** of more than 100 titles in English cover various aspects of Japan from classical theatre to modern, daily life.

[Club Taishikan](#) The aim of this workshop is to introduce young people to various aspects of Japan. The participants try origami, calligraphy and have an opportunity to wear yukata. **Embassy of Japan**

[Japan in your Classroom](#) **The Japan Society's** popular school visit programme offers schools in various parts of the UK the chance to host visits by Japanese volunteers. In areas where there are no volunteers, the Access to Experts list helps schools identify other speakers.

[Japan Society Awards](#) are grants to support small-scale projects and events. Priority is given to educational, regional and community projects, particularly those involving active participation and exchange.

[StepOutNet School Visits Programme](#) exists to create links between schools and Japanese-speaking volunteers, who carry out school visits across the UK to introduce students at any level to the Japanese language, often as part of an International or Japan day. Should the school wish to start offering Japanese, either as an extra-curricular or fully timetabled subject, further advice and support is readily available. **Japan Foundation**

[Resources](#) **The Japan Society** has a wide range of materials for loan to schools, such as Japan Activity Chests, bursting with Japanese artefacts, and is engaged in continual development of new teaching resources and schemes of work, linked to required programmes of study.

[Japan-EU Mutual Understanding Scholarship Programme](#) A Japanese Government-sponsored programme with the aim of encouraging young people aged between 16 and 17 from Europe to have a deeper understanding of Japan and its culture. **Embassy of Japan**

[Networking and sharing information](#) The **Japan Foundation** provides a popular venue for training days and events, where teachers and language advisors can exchange ideas and advice related to the teaching of Japanese. Everyone interested in Japanese language education is welcome to join the JLE-UK e-mail discussion group, the best way of keeping up to date with news and staying in touch for instant advice from fellow teachers throughout the year.

[Global Gateway](#) Can help you take students outside the four walls of the classroom to real communication with their counterparts in other countries. It offers the materials to put lessons into a modern, topical and global context, and access to great online projects where you share your work with teachers and pupils from all over the world. And there's a fantastic school partner-finding service with 6,000 schools from every continent signed up!

**Broaden your school's horizons, deliver effective, inclusive school development, enthuse parents and governors, and involve the wider community in your area. It's all possible with international school links.**

British Council

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[www.britishcouncil.org/schoolpartnerships](http://www.britishcouncil.org/schoolpartnerships)

[www.dajf.org.uk](http://www.dajf.org.uk)

[www.elanguages.org](http://www.elanguages.org)

[www.uk.emb-japan.go.jp](http://www.uk.emb-japan.go.jp)

[www.globalgateway.org](http://www.globalgateway.org)

[www.gbsf.org.uk](http://www.gbsf.org.uk)

[www.jpjf.org.uk/language](http://www.jpjf.org.uk/language)

[www.japan21.org.uk](http://www.japan21.org.uk) (education)

[www.japansociety.org.uk](http://www.japansociety.org.uk)