

Case Study – Arabic Oasis

Amount Granted: £9000 (Birmingham City Council Emerging Communities) Date Completed: February 2010

The Project: Arabic Oasis Arabiya School

The Arabic Oasis is a social, recreational and educational organisation. Its core aims are:

- ◎ To promote and raise awareness of the Arabic Culture, History, Heritage and traditions.
- ◎ To provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation, festivals and social gatherings to combat exclusion and isolation.
- ◎ To advance the education, skills, creativity and achievement of its members and those supporting the cause of the group.

The Arabiya School is devoted to teaching Arabic to children from 5 years old to 15.



Total number of people benefiting from this project: 200 (mixed genders)

Area of Benefit: Across the West Midlands

Our students have won mainstream choir competitions for schools for the last 2 consecutive years!

Why was the project needed?

The Midlands has a large community with Arabic origins resulting in dual nationality. These families are geographically disconnected from relatives. The school provides a club and platform to meet, learn and raise their achievement while having fun and making friends.

During the summer and half-term holidays some parents will go back to their country of origin for a holiday. This would often result in their children experiencing difficulties when communicating with their relatives. The school brought children from diverse areas together. The children were able to make friends, learn their mother tongue language using traditional and creative techniques like play, choir and calligraphy within an Arabic context. In addition to this children were given the opportunity to play football and swim separately with session for boys and girls on alternate weeks.



The difference the project has made:

The children's overall grades at school improved and they now feel a lot more confident in voicing their opinions and engaging in group discussions. The parents are happy with their children's success and boost in morale.

Quote:

"The funding which was received from BCC Emerging Community, has been a brilliant help, it has enabled us a project to provide a range of activities such as running classes, hiring a sports hall, visiting historical places and most importantly bringing the families and children together."

(Mohamed Sulaiman, Chairperson)

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