

Thursday 14th June 2018



To whom it may concern,

My name is Misha Battle and I have been an English teacher at one of your partner schools, Werneth School, for the past three years. In September, I am leaving Werneth for a year to support a local education project the surrounding area of Guatemala City. **Educando Para La Vida** (Education for Life) is an organisation that works with children and young people at risk of dropping out of education. Situated in Zaragoza, EPV believes that education is the key to unlocking each child's future and supports them in attaining their education to combat systemic patterns of poverty in Guatemala.

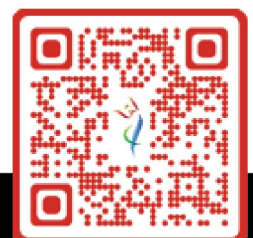
The educational context in Guatemala is challenging.

The situation in Guatemala:

1. In the last decade, less than 50% of the population enrolled at a secondary school in Guatemala. (Unicef)
2. The literacy rate of Guatemalans over the age of 15 is 75% (the second lowest literacy rate in the Western hemisphere).
3. Around 15,000 children live on the streets. (Operation world)
4. 72% of the population are under 30 years old (low birth control and high homicide rate). Operation World.
5. Many children drop out of education before the age of 12/year 7 because of the pressure to support their family/child labour/ insufficient support at home.

Educando Para La Vida is a Christian project that combats these factors that stop children and young people from completing their basic education. The project offers a range of facilities for the young people:

- Educafe (Internet café/English lessons/homework support),
- Water purification for the local town
- Youthwork project
- Music lessons
- Alternative curriculum
- A safe space and support in homework
- An alternative provision for supporting literacy, numeracy, arts, drama, sports.
- It offers supportive classes for parents alongside a library for pupils,
- Summer camps for deprived pupils and supported healthcare for the local town.



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I will be working abroad for 10 months September 2018 to June 2019, supporting and teaching within the project. In order to go, I am working with the English Charity Latin Link who supports Educando Para La Vida. I am fundraising my own salary for the year which will be £10,000. So far, I am at 50% of my target and am running a fundraising week in July within school to support this.

Project Proposal:

As a school we are planning in July to do an event called '**Dribble For Your Dreams**'. This event will be across all year groups and will take place in their PE lessons across one week. In their PE Classes, pupils will complete a dribbling course across the school. It is 5,261 miles from Manchester to Guatemala. In their PE classes they will be placed into teams and will be given the challenge to get over 5,261 touches whilst dribbling as they complete the course for 30 minutes. Each PE class will compete against the other PE classes. The class with the highest amount of touches whilst dribbling (over 5,261 touches) will win a prize. To support this event, pupils will be encouraged to pay a pound to compete. We are hoping to raise £1,000 in support of the project and my role there next year.

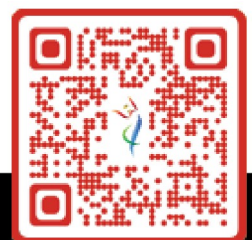
With Phil working at the school, we wondered whether Manchester United would want to be a part of supporting this whole school cause. We believe this will promote education in a global context and give pupils the ability to contribute to supporting education across the globe, partnering with a country that has undergone such tragedy in the recent volcanic eruption this month. It will encourage teamwork, resilience, taking ownership and leadership in their sporting abilities and have a competitive edge to enhance their physical performance.

Our project proposal is for the following. Would Manchester United be willing to support us in the following ways:

1. **Sponsor the event** through a donation to the cause. <https://www.latinlink.org.uk/Appeal/misha-battle>
2. **Offer a range of prizes** to pupils who take part. Eg) The best dribbler across the school (pupil with the most touches whilst dribbling), the fastest team to complete the course. Best performing male/best performing female etc.
3. **Publicise the event** to raise support for the project and Guatemala's tragic situation. Would the **Manchester United Communications Team** be willing to come down? They could interview pupils taking part, publicise the initiative on social media.
4. **Encourage other Partnership schools** to get involved in the initiative 'Dribble For Your Dreams' in raising awareness of the education system in Guatemala.
5. **Build** a relationship with the project **Educando Para La Vida** in the future. If Manchester United support the event, we could create a dialogue through the coming year with the project, supporting any Guatemalan children who have an interest in football through prizes/rewards in the coming year.

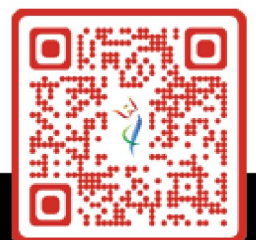
Please do let me know if this is something you would like to support. We believe as a partnership school, this event will emphasise Manchester United's ethos of 'empowering young people to reach their full potential', not only for our pupils at Werneth but for Guatemalan children over 5,261 miles away. I look forward to hearing your reply.

Kind regards,
Misha Battle



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