



The Linking Network

September 10th 2026

Reference for Rauf Bashir

At The Linking Network we have worked closely with Rauf Bashir since 2015 to support Building Bridges Pendle who lead Pendle Schools Linking Programme.

It has been a privilege to partner with Rauf throughout this time. We have found him to be incredibly thoughtful with both words and actions will all those involved - colleagues, teachers, pupils of all ages and partner organisations. He has detailed understanding of context that is always insightful and he is able to convey his knowledge in an inclusive, forward thinking manner. His determination to work in partnership with the community to build social cohesion is unwavering.

This deep commitment to community has led to real change and brought hope to many. He has led his team to build remarkable local partnerships. This has included partnerships that have enriched the Schools Linking programme so that children and young people can build understanding and connection across difference.

We know he has had the attention of the UK government in the work he has led. The Pendle Schools Linking Journey has been a remarkable journey moving from a small number of schools at the beginning to build a substantial programme impacting on primary and secondary schools, pupils and families.

It has been rooted in locality and always shows vision and creativity - ranging from family events that genuinely bring people from different communities together, to unique creative approaches to dialogue, to creating wonderful opportunities, to enabling people to connect with others in nature and organising family festivals.

Meg Henry and Linda Cowie – Co CEOs

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