



Bridge: A MindSport For All

Connects People, Challenges Minds

Bridging Schools

The *Bridging Schools* research explores what helps and hinders learning for children in primary and secondary schools. The study considers different views in relation to the benefits and skills (cognitive, social and emotional) developed through learning bridge.

Focus groups and individual interviews will be conducted with teachers (school teachers and bridge teachers who teach children), pupils and parents to explore different perspectives in relation to the skills gained through bridge.

Scope of the study

The case studies focus on researching the benefits and challenges of teaching bridge in schools, using the examples of Norway, Northern Ireland, Scotland, England and digital teaching in the USA. Bridge has recently been introduced into the curriculum in schools in Belfast. Fieldwork is planned to be conducted in two schools in Northern Ireland. *Bridging Schools* will investigate the transitions and support from teaching children in primary/elementary schools as they move on to secondary/high school.

The project will conduct research with after-school and lunch-time bridge clubs in primary schools (ages 5-11) and secondary schools (ages 12-18) in Glasgow and the Highlands in Scotland. In the Highlands, we will explore how digital bridge (Shark Bridge and RealBridge) is being used within the classroom. The study will also draw on international experiences of teaching bridge to children, including BridgeWhiz (digital teaching in USA). BAMSA also plans to explore a new school project where bridge is introduced during school time and followed up with after-school play and learning in Norway.

Research design

We are at the stage of research design so there is an opportunity for stakeholders to suggest aspects that they would like us to research, for example:

- Suggestions of research questions or interview questions that you would like us to ask to school teachers, bridge teachers (who teach children in schools), pupils and parents who will participate in the research.
- What kind of outputs would be most useful to you from this school bridge project?

Email suggestions to Prof Punch – s.v.punch@stir.ac.uk

See other BAMSA research projects: <https://bridgemindsport.org/home/research/>

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