School Profile

School: Asisiriwa Methodist Primary School

District: Ashanti

Country: Ghana
In 1996, the government of Ghana introduced free Universal Primary Education which has led to a large increase in the number of children starting primary school. This is a positive step towards delivering the Millennium Development Goal for Universal Primary Education but it has put enormous pressure on an overstretched education system to deliver a quality education to an increasing number of students.

Link has been working in Ghana since 2000 at district level alongside the Department of Education, on building the capacity of District Education Staff, schools, teachers, and their communities through School Management Committees. Link began in the Upper East Region in the far north of the country close to the border with Burkina Faso. We have expanded our work into four districts in the Upper East, and two in the Ashanti Region.

### Asisiriwa Methodist Primary School

| District: | Ashanti |
| Country:  | Ghana   |
| Postal Address: | P. O. Box 25, Kuntenase |

| Head teacher | Mr. Owusu Antwi |
| Number of teachers | 10 |
| Number of trained teachers | 4 |
| Number of pupils, (male, female) | 191, 180 |
| Number of functioning classrooms (temporary, permanent) | 12 |
| Furthest distance pupils travel to school | 5km |
| Furthest distance teachers travel to school | 0.5km |
| Total instructional time per day | 6 hours |
| % of students going onto Junior High School | 51% |
| Main language and ethnicity of pupils and teachers | Asante Twi |
| School’s favorite subjects and sports | Mathematics, Netball, Football |
The School

The nearest town to the school is Mim- Pipie which is about 2km away. The school was founded in 1940 by Mr. B. K. Abankor with the aim of promoting formal education in the town. The school shares a site with the local Junior Secondary School (JSS) and kindergarten. It is usually housed in a simple classroom block, but recent storms destroyed the roof of two classrooms, meaning that these classes are currently taught in the JSS workshop. The school building lacks doors and windows, but is otherwise in reasonable condition.

The school is proud of its recent academic achievements, with the hard work of the teachers and the pupils being rewarded with 6th place in the district in Mathematics which is excellent in comparison to previous results. In extra-curricular activities such as sport and culture, the school’s performance has also been strong – both the netball and football teams represented their circuit at the district competition last year, finishing as high as 3rd place in netball.

The number of children at the school continues to rise, meaning that they are now considering adopting a ‘dual stream’ – they hope that additional classrooms will be constructed with the continued support from the community to support one extra student.

The Headteacher

The school is led by the head-teacher, Mr. Owusu Antwai Bosiako who has been in the school for the last eight years. The school’s academic standards have improved recently, and he is working hard to maintain these and help the school develop further. He has the strong support of his staff and the wider community.

Everyone involved with the school is confident that the school’s future is bright and with the school partnership, the school will be one of the best schools in the District and the nation as a whole.

“The school will soon become one of the best in the District – the staff are ready to do their best, the pupils are working hard, and the community is willing to help in any way.”

- Mr Bosiako, Head Teacher
The Pupils

Teachers believe that there is potential for the school’s enrolment to be higher through informing the community of the value of education. In the meantime, the school will continue to receive pupils from the thriving kindergarten that is on-site.

Pupils’ parents’ financial concerns have noticeably had an impact in the pupils’ education – there is an issue with paying school fees, having correct school uniform and coming to school with the correct equipment. Despite these issues, the children perform well academically.

The pupils are excited about their international school partnership through Links programme. A pupil named Dominic Mensah aged 14 years in P6 says he likes teaching and learning in the school.

“I hope the school partnership will improve my learning” –
Dominic Mensah, P6 student

The Teachers

The school is part of the Ghana-wide Whole School Development (WSD) programme, which provides a small annual grant to the school, which has been spent on training teachers on lesson preparation. WSD has also donated other items such as textbooks, exercise books and stationery for the school, and teachers report that it has been successful in raising standards in the school, describing the scheme as ‘excellent.’

Despite this, the teachers still state a lack of materials as a problem, particularly textbooks. There is a shortage of English books and many are old in and in poor condition and students share twelve textbooks between forty-nine pupils disrupting teaching and also resulting in difficulties setting homework.

“The Whole School Development programme is excellent!” –
Teacher
The Community

With the support of Link Ghana, the School Management Committee (SMC) works with the head-teacher to ensure good management of the school – ensuring effective teaching, planning for the infrastructure of the school and encouraging enrolment. The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is active in ensuring good relations between parents and teachers, and provides the financial and material support needed for the school to grow.

The SMC and PTA members mobilise the community to help the school with regular communal labour – weekly sessions enable the weeding of the compound and any ongoing work. Recently the community came together to build a fence for the school to keep out stray animals. With help from the local chief, Nana Sarfo Kantanka, the SMC/PTA organise fundraising. He draws up a budget with the community for the school every year and provides any assistance he can to the SMC and PTA, in particular through encouraging people to provide their communal labour to help the school.

How Link supports your school

Freda Boateng, the Project Officer in Ashanti works in a team of four to support 106 schools and the District Education Staff. Link’s local office provides support to Asisiriwa Methodist Primary School and the local District Education Office through a number of initiatives:

Link School Programme (LSP)

- Asisiriwa has been participating in international school partnerships since 2005 and been linked with its current school in England since 2010. An international partnership offers an exciting and valuable educational experience for pupils, teachers and everyone involved with the school, both in the UK and in Africa. The teachers see it as an opportunity to exchange ideas in view of school development, share information on cultural similarities and differences and also share resources, knowledge and skills.
- The programme enables the schools to regularly exchange packages and access to our themed Partnership Projects. The projects fit into the curriculums of both the UK and African curriculums and are based on the Millennium Development Goals to raise awareness of key development issues.
Solar Connect

- Link Ghana have piloted our new Solar Connect project, this supports the installation of solar panels and the supporting equipment to provide schools with a sustainable source of power and the IT equipment to access the internet. Our local staff provide training and support on sustainable energy, climate change and solar energy; as well as introducing teachers to IT, the internet, email and our new linking schools website www.linkschools.org. Eight installations have taken place in Ghana so far, including Asisiriwa. We are looking forward to expanding this innovative project to even more schools across Ghana.

School Performance Review (SPR)

- Link has developed a participatory school monitoring and planning tool, designed to develop and strengthen local planning, decision-making, monitoring and accountability systems at both school and district level. SPR enables schools to analyse, understand and compare their school performance in a number of areas, which is shared with the school management committee and district stakeholders to enable them to plan for school and district improvement.

School Management Committee (SMC) training

- SMC training has enhanced parent participation in the School Governing Body and Parents' Meetings, particularly concerning School Development Plans, School Improvement Plans and budgets. This training has led to the establishment of Circuit Parents' Forums which partner successful alumni and community leaders to support the parents.