

The Agreement

A successful Asha trip is a combination of efficient preparation and a strong relationship and mutual understanding between the schools' teachers and their students and the Asha staff.

Trust and Confidentiality

Do not bottle up your feelings. Don't be afraid to confide in your teachers. They are there to help.

Discipline

Follow instructions to the letter – it is for your own safety and to protect your well-being.

Good Will

Be ready to work as a team, play as a team and support each other in happy and in emotional times.

In our Teacher's Words

"As a consequence of leading four teams from Rainey Endowed to New Delhi over the past six years to work in the slum colony of Kusumpur, I have become an Asha ambassador and a passionate supporter of the work that they do. The benefits of the Asha experience to all are manifold.



Increasingly, many schools are raising awareness of global poverty, not merely through the teaching of citizenship programmes but by offering their students the opportunity to have hands-on experience of working directly with people in need.

Our students have gone to New Delhi and witnessed for themselves the crippling effects of poverty; more crucially, they have also observed the antidote in action, which is education. They return home inspired by the students they have met, whose lives have been transformed through Asha's Higher Education programmes.

I cannot commend this enough. From a leader's perspective, such a trip is undoubtedly a huge responsibility but knowing that the Asha staff in New Delhi are available at all times to give support during the visit vastly lightens the load.

If you are interested in becoming involved, the online resources of this Schools' Toolkit give step by step guidance on how to organise such a visit and I, among others, can offer ongoing practical support at this end".

Pearl Donnelly, Schools' Coordinator

Costing the Trip

Northern Ireland schools have been organising successful trips since 2000 and thanks to efficient partnership with our friends at Asha India we are able to offer students throughout Ireland an experience of a lifetime. Price will inevitably have to be considered and reviewed, dependent on the rising costings of various components of the trip.

Overview

- Cost is made up of a parental contribution and personal fundraising. This covers all travel expenses, meals and sightseeing trips, including a visit to the Taj Mahal and Red Fort at Agra.
- As well as raising money for the trip, students are encouraged to raise an additional sum of money as a personal donation to Asha.
- Payment can be spread over a period of time through a direct debit arrangement or monthly collection of cash.
- The school embraces a fundraising programme that extends over the school year. All the proceeds will go towards the overall donation to Asha
- Students raise awareness of the Asha project by fundraising within their own communities and inviting the wider school community to school organised events such as curry nights, coffee mornings and car washes.



Building the Foundations of a Successful Trip



For further details please contact


Pearl Donnelly

E: ashaireland@icloud.com

T: 07708 024136

More information on our website:
www.asha-india.org/ireland-schools

Join the conversation on Facebook

 Friends of Asha Ireland

More information on our website
www.asha-india.org/ireland-schools

Choosing Asha

Asha has years of experience in hosting successful trips thanks to a combination of efficient preparation, strong relationships and mutual understanding between the schools' teachers and their teams, and the Indian staff at Asha headquarters.

Safety and Mutual Trust

Students are encouraged to be creative and take initiative as part of their work at Asha but are supervised at all times, whether indoors or outdoors. Full health and safety instructions are given before and during the trip.

Life skills

Being part of the Asha team provides a unique opportunity to build new skills in an environment that is both challenging and warm. Students develop communication and teaching skills whilst sharing knowledge with children less fortunate than they are.

Partnerships

Schools, without exception, adopt their own particular slum colony, for instance Ballymena Academy and the Tigri Colony. This type of partnership encourages continuity of relationships between our two countries and between cultures.



In Asha's Words

"At Asha, we put our values of integrity, social justice, peace-making, citizenship and accountability into action every day. We provide the critical support that deprived slum dwellers need to achieve a decent quality of life as a community and reach their potential as individuals. The Friends of Asha Ireland student teams have been contributing to this aim since 2000. Witnessing their selfless efforts, willingness to share and to learn in return as well as their practical achievements as a team is truly inspirational. We look forward to many more years of collaboration."

Gordon Wright, Friends of Asha Ireland

All the Ws!

WHAT?

Play your part in making a difference to the lives of children of the Delhi slum colonies! The journey in a nutshell:

- ☀️ Learn all about Friends of Asha Ireland and discuss the work of Asha with your teachers and parents. This Toolkit will help you to get started. Why not visit the website (www.asha-india.org/ireland-schools) and become part of the Asha worldwide community?
- ☀️ Ask questions, apply and go through the selection process. About 12 to 15 students can participate in one trip.
- ☀️ Get involved! Learn brand new skills in preparation for your trip to the Asha Delhi slums. Explore the history of India, learn about the life in the slums, start fundraising, start dreaming!
- ☀️ Start working as a team and getting to know your travelling companions and teachers.
- ☀️ Spend 10 days in Delhi. Work, create friendships, discover the sights and experience the culture.
- ☀️ Return to Ireland with increased awareness of global citizenship issues and maintain lifelong relationships with your new Indian friends.

WHERE AND WHEN?

Trips to the Asha Delhi slums normally take place every 18 to 24 months. Participants travel from Dublin airport to Delhi and stay in a carefully selected hotel for 10 days. On location, they work in an Asha slum colony, visit Delhi and its sights, and travel to Agra on a trip to the world famous Taj Mahal. They also have the opportunity to meet Dr Kiran and ask her questions about the history and the work of Asha.



WHO?

On location, the students, teachers and Asha India staff work closely but also have fun together!



"Working at the Asha Centre in Mayapuri is the most rewarding thing I have ever done. The enthusiasm displayed by everyone, young and old, to learn was truly inspiring. We taught English lessons, arts and crafts, music and games with the children. They put 100% into everything we did with them, showing true appreciation. Just to see the smiles on all the children's faces as we sang songs and played games with them made every minute spent there so worthwhile.

I can only describe everyone at Asha as one big, loving family, which we were made feel a part of during our time spent there. During my time in Mayapuri I learnt how much we take for granted when there are people living in abject poverty yet they are so happy and make the most of what little they do have. Working at the ASHA centre I have gained a whole new perspective on life and it is an experience I will never forget."

Emma Morrow, student, The Wallace High School, Lisburn

"Having been inspired by Dr Kiran Martin's visit to The Wallace High School, I was delighted to seize the opportunity to take a team of pupils to Delhi. It was an incredible privilege to see the work of Asha in action 'giving hope to those who need it most'. Whilst organising a trip such as this is challenging, the experience is completely life-changing."

*Victoria Walsh, Teacher,
The Wallace High School, Lisburn*



"As a former teacher myself I can just about imagine how useful this kit is going to be. The cross-cultural exchange of ideas and values gives us a great insight into the creativity that lies within each child. School Teams coming into Asha over the last 15 years have unlocked, and ignited our kids with a desire to break free.

I invite you to consider Asha in your school programme and I know that other members of our Team in Ireland would be really pleased to hear from you."

*Freddy Martin,
Associate Director at Asha in Delhi.*