

# Queensmill & Browne-Penn

Sharing autism practice across the globe

Sponsored through the British Council Connecting Classrooms Project

In April 2018 two intrepid teachers travelled to Sierra Leone to explore the plight of autistic young people and to see how they could make a difference...

Sierra Leone is a small country in West Africa, despite natural beauty and a wonderful culture it remains one of the poorest countries in the world. Recently it has suffered a savage civil war and the Ebola pandemic. For many people in Freetown life is immeasurably hard, for those with an impairment even more so.



Through the British Council Connecting Classrooms Project we were able to travel to Freetown to support the development of a fledgling autism-specific school, Browne-Penn Special School. Our time was spent engaging the local community, training teachers on autism-specific approaches to teaching and learning and working with young people who attend the school.



The school is small, serving only 25 young people, however it is the only provision in the entire country and vast swathes of the population are unaware of the term 'autism'. There remains a lot to be done and we are hopeful that an ongoing link can be maintained with Browne-Penn with further visits from Queensmill to Sierra Leone in the name of raising autism awareness and understanding across the globe!





