Summer School: Overarching Principles and General Guidance

Summer School was an integral element of the Stepping Stones programme, however, each of the three schools chose to implement this in different ways. A comparison of the 3 different models is available in the toolkit to enable you to compare models at a glance and to pick a model which suits your context, aims, budget and staffing.

Common Elements:

* A core focus on Literacy and Numeracy (although this was delivered in different ways)
* The provision of a nutritious lunch for all students
* Opportunities for the students to build relationships with each other
* Timing – we ran the Summer School in the first two weeks of the Summer Holidays
* An introduction to the vision and values of each individual school including an introduction to secondary ways of working
* A desire to reduce workload by enabling staff to repeat lessons / activities where possible:
  + Models A & B operate on a carousel so that staff are only planning one activity per day
  + Model C is a week-long timetable which can then be repeated the following week with a different group of students
* Praise and rewards for the students who attended e.g. certificates; stickers; prizes
* No additional costs to the child

Individual initiatives which we would recommend:

* At least 2 of the Summer Schools chose to have an overarching theme which linked many of the lessons (both schools chose to focus on the 2016 Olympics in Brazil)
* Giving time for students to complete any holiday homework
* Trips were very popular with parents and students
* A celebration event at the end