



investing in children

Evaluation for Investing in Children Membership Award™

St Anne's Primary School

St Anne's Primary School in Bishop Auckland provides education for children and young people aged 4 to 11 years old. The school has a number of active groups with representation from each of the different classes that help make decisions and contribute to the day to day running of the school.

For the purpose of this evaluation I visited the school on Tuesday 20th October 2015 and met with the following children and young people from the Junior Management Group who represented a range of groups within the school and to provide the evidence for this report: Ruth, Freya, Sumaiya, Anya, Nathan, Jacob and Ross.

Evidence of Dialogue and Change

The children and young people I spoke to were all members of the Junior Management Team which are Year 6 pupils each representing one or more of the organised groups within the school. These groups include the Chaplaincy Team, Fair Trade Group, Anti-bullying group, School Council, Bikeit Team, Eco Team and the Junior PACT.

School Council

I started by asking the children and young people about the school council and how children could become a member of the group and also what types of things the school council discusses and this is what they told me:

“We do a vote for class and if you want to do it your name goes on a board and people in the class vote for who they want to represent their class.”

“We have ideas and there is a boy and girl in each class”

“There is a Lego head in the hall and people put ideas in and we discuss them but we can't have everything like when someone asked for a swimming pool.”



Lego Head and suggestion slip referencing Article 12 of the UN Convention of the rights of a child



Promoting the Rights of Children & Young People

“We got a Buddy Bench outside so that if someone is sad they can sit on it and some buddies from Year 5 would go and sit on it with them.”

“People also asked for benches to sit on as we are allowed to eat our packed lunches outside when it’s a nice day.”

“When I was on the School Council we talked about having a flag so that if it is green you know you can go on the grass but if it is red it is too wet so you can’t. It was about 4 years ago now but we have asked for it again.”

Fair Trade

The children and young people told me that a Fair Trade group had been set up to help support farmers who produce food but don’t get paid enough to cover their costs. The children and young people told me how they got involved in the Fair Trade group and how they have helped raised money since joining the group:

“At the start of the year we all put our hands up or put our name on a sheet for what group we wanted to do.”

“We put our names down and Mrs Simpson picked us.”

“We raise money by giving people hot chocolate which is 50p at the tuck shop, we do juice as well in the summer and sometimes ice pops.”

“We also sell chocolate bars as well and sell them for 50p.”

“We raise money but I can’t remember what country it goes to but I think we send it to the farmers because they don’t get paid much.”

Chaplaincy Team

In addition to the good work which the Fair Trade group are involved in, the children told me about the Chaplaincy Team and that they are responsible for coordinating most of the fundraising within the school. These are some of the things the children and young people told me they have been involved in:

“We are in charge of most of the charity work, recently we have done teddies for comfort where we donated teddies that we didn’t need any more and we sent them to Syria for children who were like us but have lost everything and we raised over 450 teddies.”

“In year 5 some of us sold 5 plectrums for £1 when some of the children were learning to play the ukulele and the money was split between the school, UNICEF and Epilepsy Action.”

“We have done something called a prayer space day and we do lots of activities and prayers. We have a prayer garden and we all painted stones for the garden which we all placed there to show that everyone is welcome there and anyone who was off that day had a stone painted for them.”

“We have also done a McMillan coffee morning and sold cakes and raised over £175 by selling the cakes.”

“We also did something for harvest and got tins and sent them to people who don’t have food.”

“We also decided to do Operation Christmas Child and we are bringing in and doing lots of shoe boxes and sending them to children who don’t normally get anything for Christmas.”

Anti-bullying Group

The children within the Junior Management Team told me they have an anti-bullying team although they don’t think that any bullying happens in their school. The children told me about the work they do to try to prevent bullying from happening in and around their school:

“We talk about what we can do if people get bullied.”

“We are planning to do a quiz after the half-term holidays and people have to answer questions right about anti-bullying but we don’t think there is any bullying in the school at the moment.”

Bikeit

The children told me they have been involved in developing a project called Bikeit and that they are working someone from the Megamotion Team.

“It’s fun for loads of students around the school and we do lots of activities and stuff with your bike like junior road safety and Bikeit breakfast and last year we won the Sustrans bronze award.”

“We decided we wanted to do bling your bike where you can decorate your bike and the best one gets to go to the shop in Bishop with Rio from Megamotion to get a bike.”

“We have Bikeit meetings where we meet with Rio and Mrs Simpson where we choose what we want to do on our bikes and Rio comes into school to do assemblies about it.”



Bikeit Notice board

ECO Team

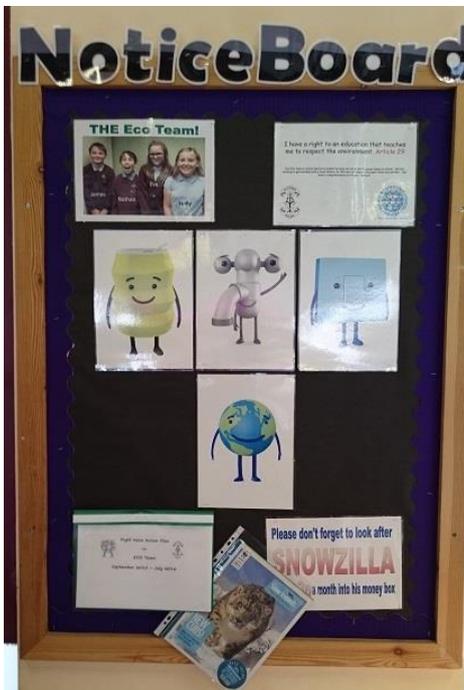
The ECO team is made up of children and young people that are interested in looking after the environment in and around the school. The Eco group told me about the different projects and roles within the groups and about how they are involved in making improvements to the school:

“We’ve been outside and decided to do a litter pick and then we had lunch outside.”

“We also did earth hour where we turned out the lights for an hour to save energy.”

“We have Peach the Panda who is like a mascot that represents the ECO Group.”

“We also decided to have a litter competition where everyone had to draw a picture and the winner went on all the bins in the school. The ECO Team got together to pick the winning picture.”



ECO Group Notice Board

The ECO group told me about the different roles and responsibilities each year group has within the group:

“Last year every class did a job in the ECO Group where you were responsible for different things.”

The children showed me their file and the different names for the different jobs and what those young people were responsible for. These roles included Switch, these people were responsible for going around school to switch off lights that didn't need to be on, it also included Tap and these young people were responsible for monitoring the toilets to check that taps weren't running unnecessary.

Junior PACT

The Junior PACT Team told me about some of the work they have been involved in to try to enforce positive changes to protect the children who attend St Anne's Primary school as well as other people who live in the community. This is what they told me about their group:

“It's stuff about road safety and we did some stuff about Megamotion as well.”

“We do competitions for our road safety campaign.”

“We get 2 Police Officers in and we discuss what we are going to do, one time we when out giving parking tickets for people who were parking in the wrong place.”

“In the winter we did a right to be seen thing cos there was a concern for children walking home and that so we made bright things to be worn that like fluorescent jackets for the walk to school stuff.”

“We also did stranger danger stuff as well.”

Other evidence of dialogue and change

Responses to suggestions

The children and young people told me that for every suggestion that is discussed within the meetings, these are presented to the school and the children and young people always get a written response saying what decision has been made and whether or not the group can have what they requested. The young people said this is really good as if they can't have something they are always given a good reason why and not just told they can't have it or not given any feedback at all.

Rewards

After meeting with the children and young people I went for a walk around the school to see some of the displays the children Junior Management Team had told me about and I came across a Rewards box for Star of the Week. Children and young people can be nominated as Star of the week by a teacher or member of staff and the winner would get a certificate at the end of the week. The children and young people asked that as well as a certificate could they receive a small prize. Mrs Richardson told me that the Head Teacher Mrs Sixsmith had agreed some funding for this and now the children can choose a prize out of the star of the week rewards box.



Star of the Week Reward box

Recommendations for the future

Throughout the meeting with the children and young people they were very enthusiastic about their involvement within the different groups and they talked about how friendly the school is and how they all feel like they are listened to by the teachers and school staff. I asked the group because they thought they were all listened to did they think the school was doing a good job and one young person said:

“It is better than good it is great.”

Conclusion

It is on this basis I would like to recommend that St Anne's Primary School receives their first Investing in Children Membership Award™. This report is endorsed by Ruth, Freya, Sumaiya, Anya, Nathan, Jacob and Ross from the Junior Management Group.

Congratulations and well done!

**Chris Affleck
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Investing in Children CIC
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