

## Investing in Children Membership Award™ Re-evaluation.



investing in children

### St Anne's Church of England Primary School

St Anne's Church of England Primary School is situated in Bishop Auckland, County Durham and accommodates for around 215 children, aged 4-11 years old. The school aims to offer a rich, stimulating environment to develop the whole child, fulfilling academic potential whilst building moral character. The school also encourages creative, unique, open-minded, independent individuals, respectful of themselves and of others. These aims are inspired by Christian faith and practice.

### **Evidence of Dialogue and Change**

For the purpose of this evaluation I met with the Junior Management Team: Sophie, Charlotte, Lily, Emily, Jessica, Josh, Reece and James. The children told me about the changes that have happened as a result of conversations between children and adults.

#### Junior Management Team

The Junior Management Team is made up of Year 6 children who represent all groups and teams within the school.

They told me about their recent work with School Governors to think of ways to improve attendance and punctuality within school. The children said that currently they have attendance awards in class but the children thought it would be a good idea to make this a whole school event, where children who had attended school 100% of the time would be given a certificate during assembly. This is going to be implemented in the coming months.

The Junior Management Team were also responsible for helping to create a Pupil Survey, the children looked at the current survey and made suggestions on how some wording and formatting could be changed to make it easier for children to fill in. Their comments were put into place and now the survey is more child-friendly.



#### Right2B Team

The Right2B Team represents everyone's voice in school. They have recently been involved in developing a Playground Charter to encourage everyone to play well together at playtime.

The Friends of St Anne's CE Primary School have recently been raising money and the Right2B Team

Promoting the Rights of Children & Young People

helped to decide what this money should be used on. They decided to purchase picnic tables, outside benches and iPads which everyone is delighted with.

### Chaplaincy / Charity Team

The one thing that the children said that they were most proud of was the Macmillan Coffee Morning which raised £220. The children asked to take part in the Macmillan Coffee Morning and everyone was encouraged to bring cakes into school, everybody really enjoyed the morning and were really pleased with the amount of money that was raised!

The Chaplaincy / Charity Team work towards supporting lots of different charities throughout the year and enjoy thinking about the different ways they could help to raise money.

Some of the ways they have done this is by wearing pyjamas to school for Children in Need; bringing teddies to school to send to children in developing Countries for Teddies for Comfort; bringing food during the Harvest Festival to donate to the Local Food Bank and wearing poppies for Remembrance Day.

One child's sibling in school has been diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes and therefore the school have been raising awareness of this to all children and decided to split donations between Children in Need and JDRF (National Diabetes Charity) this year. This was something that the children really wanted to show support towards.

### *A list of things the children suggested doing for charity.*

#### *Possible Actions from visit to Woodhouse Close Church*

- We could do an assembly for the school telling them about the work of the Church and the young leader's award.
- We could ask people to collect for the food bank.
- We could ask people to bring in toys and books for the woman's refuge.
- We could write to the supermarkets to ask them to support the Church by donating for the food bank.
- We could write an article for our school newsletter.

### The 360 Wheelie Crew

This Crew helps children who would like to ride their bikes in various ways – whether through selling accessories for an affordable price or teaching children how to repair their own bikes.

This is something that some children were particularly enthusiastic to develop and even decided the name of the group themselves.

### Anti-Bullying Interest Group

This Group have done several things to raise awareness and promote kindness across the school.

One of the things they decided to be involved in was to have a school assembly to make everyone aware of anti-bullying. Everyone in school was given the opportunity

to design an Anti-Bullying Super Hero which was part of a competition to design a calendar. The children were happy to tell me that 6 of their designs were chosen for the calendar!

The children also get awards by promoting being kind and fair to each other, children who are recognised to help their peers are given an award and some Jelly Babies, these were chosen as a prize by the children when they learnt that Jelly Babies used to be called Peace Babies. A very fitting prize for this group.

The children told me that they have a Bud Stop which children can sit on to find someone to play with. The outside space also has a Playground Charter and Playground Rules which the children developed to make sure everyone was playing fairly and being nice to one another at playtimes.



### Fairtrade Team

The Fairtrade Team work towards promoting Fairtrade Products as well as supporting endangered animals.

Every Friday there is a stall at break time which sells Fairtrade sweets as well as hot chocolate in winter and ice-lollies in summer. The children really enjoyed having the hot chocolate during the cold weather.

Last year the children choose to adopt a snow leopard and recently discussed adopting a rhino. The children worked out that this would be possible if every children donated 2p a month! The children hope to adopt a rhino in the coming months.

### Eco Team

The Eco Team are responsible for making the school more eco-friendly. They look at saving electricity around the school and encouraged everyone to take part in Earth Hour. The children told me that they weren't allowed to use anything electric, for examples lights and their Xboxes, from 8-9pm one night. They told me that younger children were able to join in at an earlier time as they might had already gone to bed at 8pm.

The Eco Team have made lots of decisions around school and have recently won an award for their work!

All children were involved in encouraging each other to walk, bike or scooter to school and set up several things to inspire this, e.g. a 'park & stride' station. So many children joined in that the school won a scooter rack and bike shelter.

## Supporting the Community

A group of children look at supporting the community and ways to improve life for its residents. The children told me that they have recently organised an afternoon tea at the local Nursing Home. Everyone had a lovely time and everyone enjoyed sharing stories. Some children also visited a local park and took part in a litter pick.

## Other Ideas and Comments

We had a great discussion about everything that the children can get involved in at school, what they have done in the past and their opportunities now.

Reece told me that he had been working with the Road Safety Team and had recently been working towards promoting crossing the road safely, the Road Safety Team helped to develop an assembly on this. As a result of the assembly the children were confident in telling me the road crossing code – ‘*Stop, look and listen*’.

The children told me that they have been discussing having a ‘*French Restaurant*’ in the cooking club. They are planning to help to decorate a ‘*restaurant*’, cook French foods and speak French throughout the dinner. This is something they are working towards having in the future.

James told me that his friend wanted to organise an Art Exhibition and so the teachers worked with him and his friend to encourage all children to create art to exhibit, organise and host the event. Everybody’s families were invited to the event and art was displayed and for sale. James said himself and his friend were really happy that teachers listened to them and helped them to make their idea a reality.



Two children put a comment in the Lego Head asking to have a Talent Show, all of the children helped to organise this and everyone had a fantastic time watching the talents of St Anne’s CE School.

The children told me that they particularly like the approach the Year 6 Teacher took towards exams and SATS which are coming up next year. The children told me that they are encouraged to try their best and have learnt several techniques of how to stay relaxed, e.g. Meditation. The children felt this was very important and really appreciated it.

The children gave me lots of examples of how their comments lead to change within the school and I asked if children not involved in groups were given an opportunity to have a say and feed their ideas into school. The children were very confident that all children, even if they are not a part of a group, had a say in school.

They showed me the Lego Head which all children can post comments, the Junior Management Team look at these comments and this helps to lead to positive changes. They told me several examples of this which are highlighted above.

Jessica told me that there are 'Idea Books' in every classroom and so anyone can write an idea in the book at any time.

The children told me that one thing that had recently been suggested in the Lego Head was to have a path to the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) outside,

***"I think that we need a path to MUGA!"***

The children said they were discussing ways in which this path could be funded. They said that one idea that they had was to have a coffee morning where 50% of the funds would be used to build a path to MUGA and 50% would be donated to charity. The children look forward to discussing this in future meetings.

The children showed me two booklets: a Newsletter and a Pupil Voice newspaper. Both were brilliant informative newsletters which children are able to input and write articles in them. The Pupil Voice newsletter really showed what each group had been doing and how children's comments and ideas had an impact on school life.

There are lots of aspects of school life which the children really enjoyed and wanted me to highlight, they also made several suggestions of things they could look at over the coming months to enhance what they already enjoy. The children told me:

***"I think I made a good start to Year 6 and all of the teachers are really nice."***

***"I like the way we have: discos and being heard."***

***"In this school I like the coffee afternoons."***

***"In Year6 we have a leaving assembly. Last day we can have people sign our school shirt."***

Two children suggested:

**"More Choice of books."** And,

**"More Harry Potter!"**

## **Recommendations**

The children discussed three main ideas that they would like to explore over the coming year:

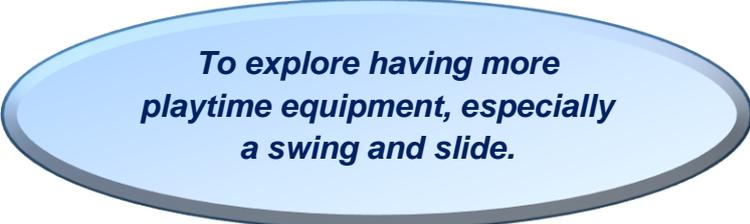


***Have Cloakroom Monitors***

The children told me that there has been a lot of positive things already done to keep the cloakroom tidy and clean, such as a Cloakroom Award and Charter. The children would like to explore whether having Cloakroom Monitors could help improve the cloakroom even further, they said:

***“We could get Cloakroom Monitors.”***

***“I think we should get Cloakroom Monitors.”***



***To explore having more playtime equipment, especially a swing and slide.***

The children were especially keen on seeing if there could be a swing and slide on the playground.

***“I would like a swing set and slide.”***

***“In this school one thing I would like swings and slides.”***

The children acknowledged that they would have to raise money for this, and also perhaps assign a Playtime Monitor to make sure everyone was playing safely and fairly.



***Have a path to MUGA  
(Multi-Use Games Area).***

As discussed earlier in this evaluation the children would like to discuss building a path to MUGA.

## **Conclusion**

I was delighted to see so many good examples of children being able to have a voice in school and the teachers listening and putting their ideas into practice. It was very evident that children are involved in discussing all areas of school life and this practise is deeply embedded into the ethos of St Anne’s CE Primary School.

The children agreed with this and said:

***“In this school I think I get listened to really well.”***

***“We have a lot of voice groups.”***

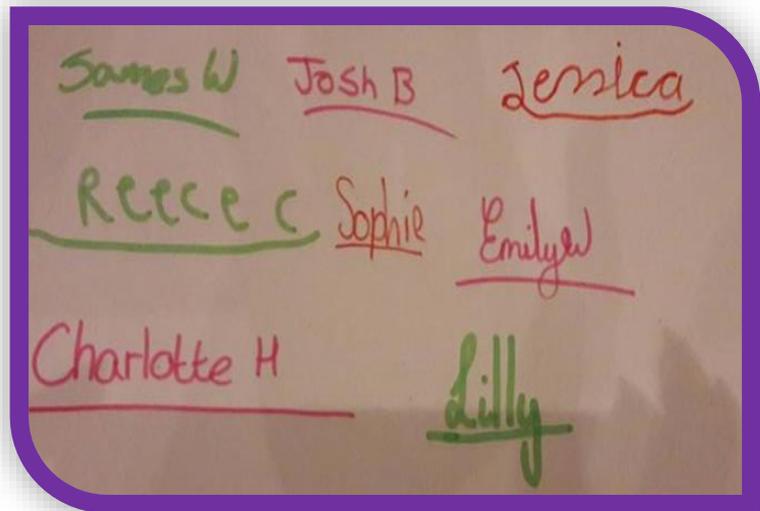
***“We get listened to.”***

***“Lots of teams.”***

For these reasons I would like to recommend that St Anne’s Church of England Primary School continues to be valued members of the Investing in Children Membership Award™.

The children have endorsed this evaluation and their signatures are included.

**Chloe Brown  
Project Worker  
Investing in Children CIC  
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**Investing in Children CIC**

One Point Hub, Burns Green, Chester-le-Street, County Durham, DH3 3QH United Kingdom.

Website: [www.investinginchildren.net](http://www.investinginchildren.net) | Email: [membership@investinginchildren.net](mailto:membership@investinginchildren.net)

Tel: 0044 191 3746113 (NEW) | Follow us on Facebook | Follow us on Twitter: @IiC\_rights

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