



INVESTING IN CHILDREN

Membership Evaluation

Date July 2006
(Member since June 2005)

PROJECT NAME Canning Street Primary

PROJECT LOCATION Wellfield Road, Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 8PA

CONTACT NAME Dame Mavis Grant
PHONE 0191 273 5465
E-MAIL admin@canning.newcastle.sch.uk

ASSESSOR Glenys Newby

SUMMARY OF EVALUATION

Sector School
Ages 4-11 years
Area West
Ward Elswick

Number of beneficiaries 420



investing in children

Re- Evaluation for Investing in Children membership: Canning Street Primary School

Canning Street Primary School

Children who attend Canning Street Primary School range between the ages of 3 – 11. Canning Street Primary is a large inner city school located in the North Benwell area of Newcastle. It is an open plan school which is friendly and cheerfully decorated throughout. It is a multi cultural school, made up of children from many different places and who have many different needs. To ensure everyone's needs are met, the school continues to engage all the children in dialogue and provide the children with the opportunity to have a say in decisions that affect them. For the purpose of this report I had the pleasure of meeting with Becky, Chloe, Casey, Hannah, Dominic, Jordan, Salman, Ryhan, Benji, Keya, Mayzaty and Felza.

Evidence of Dialogue and Change

School Council

Ryhan told me, **"The Council meets every week or sometimes once a fortnight."** Casey explained how she became a council member. **"People in the class vote for you. They vote for a school councillor and a deputy. We all volunteer and want to be on the council."** Salman added, **"We have badges to wear so everyone knows who we are."** While Ryhan informed me, **"We have our photos in the classrooms and there are some next to Mrs Grant's room. So everyone knows who we are."**

Benji told me about some of the things the school council have bought for the school. **"We have bowls and different toys at play time. People asked for the bowls in the issue boxes, so we bought them."**

The group came up with some really good ideas to make the School Council even more efficient. Salman and Benji both thought it would be a good idea for the councillors to have a short briefing meeting with their class after the council meetings. Salman said, **"This way, we'll be able to tell the rest of children what is going on. Then everyone knows and can have a say if they don't like what we decide."**

Issue Boxes

Jordan told me, **"We try and get what people want in the school."** Ryhan added, **"And we try to improve things around the school."** I asked the group how they found out other children's views and opinions. Salman said, **"We have issue boxes in the classrooms and they get used. We also have a request box in the library for books we want."** Jordan explained, **"The councillors open the issue boxes and write down in a book what people have put in the box. Then these go to the meetings to be talked about."** This is an excellent way of making sure everyone in the school can raise issues and concerns.

New School

Canning Street Primary will soon be rebuilt. There has been lots of talking with all the children in the school to ensure that all the children are involved in the planning and

development. Salman said, **“The council and everybody has talked about the re-modelling and the building of the school. We have looked at pictures of other places to see what we want in our school. Things like how many levels, what the stairs should look like and the rooms and lockers. We gave reasons why we wanted things.”** Casey added, **“We worked in little groups and we also talked about the playgrounds and fields.”** Ryhan informed me, **“All this information was combined into one. Then it was put to the people designing the school.”** Salman said, **“They gave us a big sheet on how the school would be and then we looked again at what we liked. There were models as well.”** Dominic finished by saying, **“I leave this school this week. But my little sister and brother will still come here. So I want to make sure its right.”**

Games Squad

This group continues to meet frequently to talk and learn to play new games with other children. Dominic said, **“We teach little kids how to play games.”** Ryhan added, **“And you play games with them at break time and dinner time.”** Chloe told me the Games Squad is open to everyone. She said, **“You volunteer. First they send out a booklet then you fill in the form.”** This is a great way to ensure everyone has someone to play with.

Buddies

Salman told me how children become a Buddy at Canning Street Primary School. He said, **“You volunteer and then your class mates vote who they want to be their buddy.”** Benji added **“It works because the kids know who are the best people for being a buddy.”** Chloe told me a little about the role of the Buddy. She said, **“If there is a problem in the playground then pupils go to the Buddies to sort it out.”** Dominic added, **“We have benches outside as well. Two friendship benches. If anyone is sat on them anyone can go over and ask them if they want to play.”**

The group said that the school council thought it would be a good idea if all the Buddies had badges so other pupils could easily identify them. Salman said, **“We have badges saying I AM A BUDDY.”**

Healthy Tuck Shop

Dominic told me, **“The health advisors came into school and give us loads of information about staying healthy.”** Hannah said as a result everyone thought it would be a good idea to start a Healthy Tuck Shop. She said, **“Everyone has done a poster for the Healthy Tuck Shop. The winning ones got put up.”** Casey explained a little more. **“Every year has their own little table on a Friday. We all sell apples and oranges and pears and plums and strawberries. Year 5 run the tuck shops”**

The views of children are enthusiastically sought and valued at Canning Street Primary School. All the children have had genuine input into the design of their new school. The children continue to play an active role in the development and in the improvement of the school. Staff and children at the

school are working hard together to care for and expand the opportunities that they have created. Ryhan said, **“You can go and talk to the Head Teacher or anyone really about things. All the teachers listen to what you say. It’s like children have the right to say things.”** The children feel listened to and the mutual respect in the school is a pleasure to witness. Salman said, **“It’s easy to make friends here and the people are so nice.”**

I would like to thank everyone who helped me to write this evaluation. When I asked the children if they thought their school should receive membership there was a very definite YES! Therefore I recommend without hesitation that Canning Street Primary School once again receives Investing in Children membership. Very well done.

Glenys Newby
Investing in Children Project Worker
July 2006