



INVESTING IN CHILDREN

Membership Evaluation

Date April 2006

PROJECT NAME Hawthorn Primary School

PROJECT LOCATION Park Close
Westgate
Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 6SB

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SUMMARY OF EVALUATION

Sector School
Ages 4-11 years
Area West
Ward Westgate

Number of beneficiaries



Evaluation for Investing in Children membership:

Hawthorn Primary School

investing in children

For the purpose of this evaluation for Investing in Children membership I met with: - Rcama, Stacey, Mozibur Lilly Jodie, Jay, Robert and Rebecca who are members of the school council. I also met with Shaun, Gary, Wayne, Mel, Alex and Sean who attend the Arc, which is a behaviour support class within the school.

Hawthorn Primary is engaged in many activities based on the needs and wants of the children who attend the school. These approaches they use are discussed in the report below, and highlight how change can be effective and fun if children are at the centre of approaches to participation.

Dialogue and Change

School Council

The school council has just been set up. Jodie explained to me about the structure of the school council,

“I am the chair person, Courtney is the vice chair person, Jay is the treasurer and Alex is Vice secretary and Miss McDowell is the Secretary”

Robert added, ***“we talked with the class we represented about what colour we wanted the toilets, the colour children wanted was blue”*** The boys toilets are now blue.

Rebecca spoke about the girls toilets” the girls decided on purply blue and red”

Rcama told me, “We are working on a school meals survey”

The young people who are on the school council are representatives of the class they attend in the school. They are voted in by their class and represent them on the school council meetings. The school council meets every Thursday morning to discuss different issues and topics that are raised by different children throughout the school and has made a positive start.

Arc

This is a class within the school which is designed to support children with literacy difficulties and behaviour difficulties so that these young people can reach their full potential within the school environment.

The Arc is structured in such a way that change occurs on a daily basis and is based on the needs of the young people who use it. Shawn explained, ***“We come in here to get help with English, Maths and our behaviour”***. The children, who access support in the Arc, learn through individual strategies which support their learning, based on their own ideas, which is then structured and put in place

based on what the children like. Sean told me, "***I have sketched a motorbike in my folder and read things about motorbikes and other things I like***".

This method of learning has allowed the young people to take a lead on how they learn best, and it seems an effective approach to take by the school. The young people seem to enjoy their time in the Arc because they are allowed to make decisions based on what they feel is important.

Northumberland Wildlife Trust Wildlife Meadow

The school have worked in partnership with Northumberland Wildlife Trust to develop a project within the school, where all the pupils have been involved from the start. The young people of the school decided on what they wanted to do and how they would do it, which resulted in the idea of a meadow being agreed by many children of the school .

Jay explained to me about what the children of the school have been doing, "***We have been making a dog and a big shape for the meadow***".

Jay also told me, "***some young people asked for long grass to hide in.***" This is now part of the wild meadow.

Rcama also added, "***all the school have been making wildlife boxes, bird baths, and places to sit***".

This seems to be an exciting piece of work which has engaged all young children within the school. The young people have the lead on most of the dialogue between young people and the staff in the development and designing of the wildlife meadow. They meet with the staff of the Northumberland Trust and talk about their ideas and many changes are happening to the area based on their thoughts and ideas. This is an excellent approach to participation take by the school which has involved all children from the school. When re-evaluation comes up for membership in 12 months time, it would be most encouraging if there was evidence that this model had been applied to other areas of school life.

I would like to recommend that Hawthorn Primary receives Investing in Children membership because of the positive steps the school, and more importantly the young people are making to create an environment where their voices are heard and changes are being made based what is important to the young people who attend the school.

This report has been read and agreed by the following young people who attend the school which are: - Rcama, Stacey, Mozibur, Lilly, Jodie, Robert, and Shawn.

**Rob Johnson
Project Worker
Investing in Children**

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