



## **INVESTING IN CHILDREN**

### **Membership Evaluation**

**Date** March 2006

**PROJECT NAME** Kingston Park Primary

**PROJECT LOCATION** Cranleigh Avenue, Kingston Park  
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 2HB

**CONTACT NAME** Mrs Linda Evans  
**PHONE** 0191 214 0363  
**E-MAIL** admin@kingstonpk.newcastle.sch.uk

**ASSESSOR** Glenys Newby

### **SUMMARY OF EVALUATION**

**Sector** School  
**Ages** 3-11 years  
**Area** North  
**Ward** Castle

**Number of beneficiaries**



investing in children

## Evaluation for Investing in Children membership:

### Kingston Park Primary

Kingston Park Primary School serves Kingston Park, Kenton Bank Foot, Tudor Grange and Ouseburn Park areas of Newcastle City. The school caters for children from the ages of 3 to 11 years.

On recent visits I met with Mrs Evans and Miss Owen and they explained how the children are involved in the many aspects of their school life. They also explained how the school tries to provide children with the opportunity to have a say in decisions that affect them.

### Evidence of Dialogue and Change

To help me write this report I had the pleasure of meeting with Lauren, Hussam, Daniel, Lewis, Andrew, Abbie, Matthew, Nichole, Emily and Rebecca.

#### **School Council**

The School Council usually meets every two weeks. Daniel told me, **“At the beginning of the year the class votes for who they want as their Councillor. Everyone takes part.”** The children informed me that for the first few meetings, the pupils who were on the School Council the previous year are available to help the new Councillors. Daniel said, **“I am Chairperson and Hussam is Assistant Chair. And the School Council is in the process of electing a Secretary.”** He continued, **“I go through the minutes at the beginning of the meeting to see if everyone is happy with them.”** (See attached)

As well as the School Council, there are also Class Councils. Hussam said, **“We all go back to the Class Councils and feedback. The older School Councillors go into reception and Year 1 and feedback to them. And at the beginning of the year they go into these classes and explain what the Council is about.”** This is a good way of making sure all the children in the school are regularly informed. Lauren continued, **“Everyone gets a fair say”** while Lewis added **“We all decide what we do to help the school.”**

#### **Suggestions**

In some classrooms there are suggestion slips and suggestion draws available to children so that they can put forward any ideas, comments or worries. (See attached) Hussam said, **“You get to take other peoples suggestions. If anyone wants anything, all they have to do is fill in a slip.”** This system tries to ensure that all the children in the school have the opportunity to put their opinions forward. Those pupils who may not feel comfortable talking about views directly to a councillor, still the opportunity to put forward suggestions.

#### **Playground Equipment**

Matthew told me all about the different toys and games that are available at play times. He said **“We have some footballs, skipping ropes, spongy dice, big chess boards, hula hoops and noughts and crosses.”** Emily continued, **“At play time we get different things to play with.”** Daniel told me, **“The Council asked our class what we would like. They came up with some ideas and we made suggestions, we had a vote.”**

### **Questionnaires**

There is an ongoing process to find out what all the children at Kingston Primary School want and need. Abbie said, **“We fill in questionnaires about lots of things.”** Nichole gave me a recent example. **“Everyone got a questionnaire about if you feel safe and where you feel safe.”** Hussam took up the story. **“They went through them and found out where most people don’t feel safe. Most people said the roundabout at the entrance of the school. So they put railings around and they put up a sign which said cars should not come into the school between these times.”**

Andrew also gave me an example of how the questionnaires are used to change things in the school. He said, **“Some little ones said they were frightened to go to the toilets in case they got locked inside. So they put knobs on the doors of Year 1 and reception toilets.”**

Abbie quickly thought of another example. **“When we have assemblies the little ones sit on the floor and they were scared in case the big children stood on their fingers, so they put a gap where we can walk down.”**

Emily continued with yet another example. She said, **“It was really good at Christmas. We were asked what we would like. Some said a pool table, some said tablecloths, china plates and knives and forks. But some asked if we could have music on the tables, so we did.”** Hussam said they **“are still negotiating for things”** but Abbie optimistically stated, **“I think we’ll get them cos we’ve been given some money.”**

### **Assembly**

The school actively encourages all children to get involved in the assemblies. Daniel told me, **“In class assemblies we get to do the music.”** Nichole proudly informed me, **“And sometimes we play the recorders.”** Hussam added, **“Sometimes as well, we get to pick the songs that we sing in assemblies for achievement.”** while Abbie said, **“And we get to do the overhead projector, with the words we sing.”** All the children said they enjoyed taking on these extra responsibilities.

### **Fund Raising**

The children informed me about all of the fund raising activities they have been involved in. Different classes have come up with many different ideas. These have included a non uniform day, a dress up as what you want day and an event to sell Christmas Teddy bears. Andrew said with some deserved pride, **“We have raised money, and raised money for local charities like St Oswald’s hospital.”** Matthew added, **“Yes and there was the Big Hush. We got sponsorship to stay quiet. Reception was 5 minutes, Year 2 15 minutes, Year 3 20 minutes, Year 5 40 minutes and Year 6 for one hour.”**

Hussam said the best thing the Council has done for the School was **“when we have been raising money and we have made the school accessible for wheelchairs so everyone is involved.”** Abbie added, **“Yeah the ramp was a really good idea.”**

The children and staff at Kingston Park Primary School work very hard at valuing all ideas and opinions. The school council is a notable feature of the work of the school and offers exciting opportunities for children. The School Council has been involved in decision-making and in writing the school's policies such as the anti bullying policy. (See attached) They are involved in identifying issues and concerns that are important to them and it is important this work continues to progress and develop. Perhaps by providing suggestion boxes or even boards around the school for all children to put forward their ideas, this will contribute even more toward ensuring everyone has a voice and that all views are taken on board.

Most of the children I spoke to outside of the School Council said they felt listened to and the mutual respect in the school is a pleasure to witness. I hope everyone continues to nurture the principle of engaging in dialogue with children and I look forward to being told about all the changes that this brings to the school. When I asked the children if they agreed with my evaluation, there was an unanimous Yes!

I would like to thank all the children for their help I have no hesitation in recommending Kingston Primary School receives Investing in Children membership. Well done.

**Glenys Newby**  
**Project Worker**  
**Investing in Children**

**March 2006**