



INVESTING IN CHILDREN

Membership Evaluation

Date September 2005
(Member since 2004)

PROJECT NAME Sacred Heart Primary

PROJECT LOCATION Convent Road
Off Fenham Hall Drive
Fenham
Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 9XZ

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ASSESSOR Helen Mulhearn

SUMMARY OF EVALUATION

Sector School
Ages 4-11 years
Area West
Ward Fenham

Number of beneficiaries



investing in children

Re-Evaluation for Investing in Children membership:

Sacred Heart Primary

Before I met with this year's School Council I attended a presentation by the School Council to the parents, teachers and friends. A presentation which celebrated a week of achievement from their 'African Fun Week.'

The School Council organised the week to educate as well as fundraise. The purpose of the fundraising was to support a school in Africa. Sacred Heart is part of a worldwide network of Sacred Heart Schools. Their sister school in **Uganda** would like solar panels.

The African funweek included:-

- Silkpainting
- Drumming
- Plate decorating
- Beading
- Mask making
- Pot making
- Singing and dancing

The School Council also met with Lisa the cook, to ask for African food. Lisa helped by many others made a special stew. Vegetable Alecha – recipe attached, and also prepared spicy African crisps and lots of lovely and exotic fruits.

The School Council also had the opportunity to visit the Hatton Gallery during their 'African Fun Week' to make masks. Other visitors came into school and helped all the children to make masks. The children also told me that they took lots of pictures.

Mr Foster said at the end of their presentation, 'I have never had a better week in my life.'

I think lots of thanks and praise should be given to the school council for organising such a terrific week that was enjoyed by all the children in the school, well done.

The week raised more than £1700.

The School Council – this year's school council includes, Julie, Bethan, Sean, Ellie, Sam, Daniel, Shannon, Luke, Paul, Emily, Philip, Louisa, Simon and Caitlin, I met with them to talk about what has been happening at Sacred Heart over the past year.

Newsletter – the children created, designed and distributed the new newsletter, the **Heart of the Matter**. Please see attached. Luke, Sean, Julie and Bethan took the lead on the Newsletter. Luke told me about how they

worked with a graphic designer to work on the newsletter template. George and Gemma came from the university to help the children make their newsletter attractive.

Travel Plans – the children have been working with **Cheryl Ford from** the City Council to look at safer routes to school. The group did a survey in school and are in the process of collating results. As part of this the School Council were involved in preparing for ‘Walk to School Week’, the children then measured its success by collecting children’s names and then sorted the information i.e. who walked and who came by car.

100 Years Celebration – Sacred Heart Primary and **Sacred Heart High School** are to celebrate their centenary.

The School Council thought about how both schools could celebrate together. Julie – as chair of the School Council **wrote** a letter to the High School Council and **made** a date to visit to discuss their ideas. **The two councils met and arranged:-**

- **A joint Christingle Sevice December 20th. 2005**
- **A joint Mass/City Hall for more than 2000 staff and pupils** – Spring 2006
- A Summer Fun Day – Summer 2006

St James’s Park – some of the School Council attended a conference in July to share with other head teachers and invited guests how to run a successful school council.

The Children’s Centre – The School Council continue to be involved in discussions regarding the new Children’s Centre. The children keep everyone informed in their own class council meetings and via the Newsletter.

Healthy School Award – some of the School Council are involved in helping the school retain its Healthy School Award. The children have linked in their walk to school week and have made suggestions regarding school dinners. The children are looking forward to a new salad bar in the new term.

Investing in Children – when I visited Sacred Heart I sat with the children in the School Council and we talked about what they do, how they do it and how they feel. These are the comments they made:-

Sean – *‘my favourite thing is being responsible for your class choice and their opinions’*

Julie – *‘I like what we discussed coming into action’*

Ellie- *‘everything about it, telling the class and arranging stuff’*

Phillip – *‘we organise things feel important’*

Paul – *'you get to share ideas with other people, they can tell you their ideas and then you report them'*

Shannon – *'organising things'*

Luke – *'I enjoyed organising African week'*

Louisa – *'I like answering questions and weaving'*

Daniel – *'yeah'* I think Daniel was agreeing that he enjoys it all too!

Simon – *'I enjoyed all the school council meetings'*

Miss Cavanagh is now helping Mr. Foster to organise the school council and the children told me that Mr. Foster has said that he will make the school council meetings during school time. I talked this over with Mr. Foster and he said that they will now be timetabled into the day on Wednesday during Circle Time. He has met with the children on a lunchtime over the past two years but found that sometimes he has been busy and the meetings have not happened. *Therefore in order to truly commit time to ensuring that the school council meetings happened they have been brought into the school timetable.*

Simon – *'its been fun'*

Caitlin – *'because we have had lots of visitors'*

Paul – *'we have more balls/bigger balls, basketballs, a big connect four, giant jenga and rugby balls'*

Sam – *'the infants have footballs, tennis racquets and funny balls!'*

Shannon – *'and plastic bowling sets in the junior and infants and french skips in and out'*

Luke – *'I liked working with the Graphic Designer on the newsletter template'*

Bethan – *'I really liked when we went to The Hatton Gallery and made masks, we had fun'*

Julie is the Chair of the School Council, Bethan the Vice Chair and Sean the Secretary. Sean types the minutes and the agenda. Everyone has their own file and keeps their own notes.

All of the children are new to the School Council. It has been decided that next year some of the older children will stay on the School Council i.e. Year 5 in order to support the new council in setting up and starting work. The School Council continues to have a small budget and the group have bought new badges.

Sacred Heart Primary School Council has gone from strength to strength and continued to make positive changes in their school and for all of the children who attend. It can be seen clearly that the children enjoy and benefit from their involvement and it is also clear that the school benefits from the children's participation.

Once again I have no hesitation in recommending that Sacred Heart Primary continues to be an Investing in Children member, in respect of the continued commitment to dialogue with the children.

Helen Mulhearn
Project Worker
Investing in Children

September 2005

Class-act council

Sacred Heart Primary School's council gets thoroughly involved in education and fundraising issues as well as day-to-day school matters.

For example, it organised an African fun week to raise money for a sister school in Uganda that needed solar panels, and also to raise pupils' awareness about Ugandan culture. As part of the week, alongside many activities, the council asked the school's cook to make African food, which she did, helped by others.

Members of the council create, design and distribute a newsletter, *The Heart of the Matter*, to keep their schoolmates informed about important issues that could affect them. Luke says they worked with a graphic designer to develop a template to make it attractive.

The children have worked with the city council to look at safer routes to school, helping organise a Walk to School week, carrying out a survey and collating results.

When the primary and high schools' centenary was coming up, the primary school council wrote to the high school council and made a date to discuss how they could celebrate together. They arranged a joint Christingle service, mass and summer fun day.

Some members of the school council are involved in helping the school retain its Healthy School Award, and came up with the idea behind the introduction of a salad bar for school lunches.

“...we organise things, feel important...”

Sean says, “My favourite thing is being responsible for your class choice and their opinions.” Julie adds, “I like what we discussed coming into action.” And Phillip points out, “We organise things. Feel important.”

School council meetings used to be held at lunchtime, but sometimes did not happen due to the staff being too busy. To prevent this happening, council meetings have now been timetabled into the school day, during circle time.

“Sacred Heart Primary School Council has gone from strength to strength and continued to make positive changes,” says the Investing in Children assessor. “The children clearly enjoy and benefit from their involvement and the school benefits from their participation.”

[suggested pics – anything from African week or centenary celebrations]