



Evaluation for Investing in Children membership

Northgate School

Northgate School offers education for all young people who are admitted to Northgate Clinic and New Beginnings Young People's Crisis Recovery Unit. The school aims to offer all students the opportunity to access a full national curriculum and have young people's choices at key stage four.

The school provides many opportunities for young people to enter into dialogue with staff about their education. Young people who access the school are given lots of opportunities to come up with ideas. These can take place through student/staff committee meetings, which take place twice a term. Students also evaluate lessons, and all students who leave the school have to complete a school leaver's questionnaire. Students were also given the opportunity to give feedback during an Ofsted inspection in September.

This report will highlight and identify opportunities that exist for young people to engage in dialogue with staff in order to make changes.

Opportunities for Dialogue and Change

The Northgate Unit Gym.

Natasha explained, "**We all knew we were getting a new gym so the teachers asked us what equipment we wanted in it**". This is then what the young people received. Young people can access the gym for sports sessions during school and on an evening, if they choose to.

Chloe explained, "**It would be even better if we could access it more on a weekend and evening**". It would be encouraging if the staff from the school could chat with the staff and young people from both clinics about this idea.

Laptops.

The school has invested funding into improving information computer technology at the school. Some young people asked for more laptops, which have now been bought.

I was told by the young people whom I met, that this was something the school had spoken to them about. Lucy explained, "**Lots of us thought it would be better if we had some laptops for school**".

School Logo

Young people and staff have been working together to come up with a new logo for the school. Young people met regularly with staff to come up with some shared ideas. They came up with a logo that represented five people of equal size joined together.

All-Weather Pitch.

A major change at the school has been the creation of an all-weather pitch which had been requested by different students at the school. Young people were given the chance to fill in an outdoor sports area questionnaire and to design how they would like the area to look.

Student/Staff Committee Meeting

These meetings take place twice every term which allows young people the chance to discuss and develop how the school is run. Young people and staff have discussed the school mission statement, school reward system and a new school logo.

Daniel told me, **“I think the school is good and they are always asking you what you think about the school”**

Cara told me, **“I think this meeting is good and it gives me a chance to say what I think about the school”**

One change that has happened as a result of this meeting was an idea by a young person, for the school to run a sports course. The school discussed with young people, about the opportunity of running a Level 1 qualification award in Sports Leadership. Some young people thought this was a good idea so the course has been put in place.

This is an encouraging development in how the student staff committee is starting to think independently, with the young people developing their own ideas and change taking place as a result of what some young people decided to do, in partnership with staff at the school.

It would be encouraging to discover what other ideas young people might come up with over the next year through the positive inclusive environment the school is developing. Many other young people might come up with ideas to improve the school ethos for all young who attend the school.

I would like to recommend that Northgate School receive Investing in Children membership. This is because of the positive environment the school creates so that the young people can express their ideas. The school has also made positive developments in creating a working partnership between young people and teachers, with the development of the student/staff committee meetings.

I would like to finish by saying well done to all the young people and staff at Northgate School.

The following young people have read and agreed with this report, they are Natasha, Chloe, Lacey, Sadie, Lucy and Daniel.

Rob Johnson
Investing in Children
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