



## Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

### Eden Hall Community Primary School

Eden Hall Community Primary School is situated in Peterlee, in the East of the County. The school currently comprises of two separate buildings, which are divided by a road. However, currently under construction is their new school, which is expected to be ready in September, for the start of the new academic year.

#### **Opportunities for Dialogue and Change**

Since the last evaluation there continues to be several opportunities to ensure children are engaged in dialogue and that they are able to have a say in decisions that affect them.

The chatty council continues to be the main mechanism to enable children to have their say while the staff continue to encourage the children to actively contribute and be involved in all aspects of their school life.

For this evaluation I had the pleasure of meeting with the chatty council and would like to say a special thanks to them for all their help with writing this report.

#### Chatty Council

The Chatty Council have two representatives from each class, ranging from reception to year 6. The children told me how they got involved and said:

*'We had to do a speech. There were 6 of us in a class!'*

*'We were chosen by the teacher'*

*'It was hard as we had to make up things to say and we only had 30 seconds'*

*'My class, class 12 had to vote on who they wanted'*

*'We had to write names down on a piece of paper of whom we wanted and they all got counted by the teacher'*

The children then went on to tell me; *'We meet every week on a Wednesday to have our meetings. We talk about lots of things like:'*

- *Play times*
- *School Funds*
- *What type of food we want in the new school*
- *Things we want in our new school*
- *What kind of toys we want in our class rooms*
- *Bullying*
- *Out of school activities*

## School Activities

*'We asked for footy, singing and cricket and they got them at the school'*

### Bullying

The children wanted to tell me all about the things they have been doing to stop bullying at the school.

*'We try to stop bullying. We decided that if there were more activities in the yard it will stop bullying. We have got football, netball and football runder's now'*

*'We used to have these people that came into the school to play activities and sit and talk to pupils who were sad!'*

*'We also had a group who tried to stop bullying. It has got better since last year, as it was really bad, but now a lot of the bad people have gone, as some have changed school and with more activities it's so much better'*

### Packed Lunch Room

*'We have suggested that in our new school we have a packed lunch room'*

### Equipment

*'We talk about the type of stuff we want in our new school'*

*'We talk about both schools but we aren't allowed any more equipment until we have moved to the new school'*

### New School Plans

*'We are moving into our new school in September. We have been taking trips to our new school and some of the builders have been coming into our school. We get to try on their goggles and helmets'*

*'They tell us what's happening with the building'*

*'We have asked for class names to be put on the doors and photos of the children above the doors'*

### Juice

*'We asked to have juice as everyone was asking for it as we already have water fountains in the school but we couldn't have it as its full of sugar and its bad for your teeth'*

### Laptops

*'We have asked for these in our new school and we are getting them'*

### How other young people have a say

The children wanted to tell me that not only do the chatty council have a say, so do all of the pupils in the school.

*‘Other pupils get to have a say in class and that means they get to have a say in what the chatty council talk about’*

*‘Jodie and I (Jack) stand up in our class and ask them what everyone wants in the new school and Jodie writes it down’*

*‘Sometimes people come down to us in the yard and ask us to take things to the chatty council and if the chatty council agrees and thinks it’s a good idea to do something we have to go back and tell them what’s happening’*

*‘People know who we are as our names are up on a board’*

### Conclusion

It is evident that the children at Eden Hall Community Primary School are involved in having a say and making decisions.

When asked if they felt they are listened to they all replied saying ‘Yes’.

*‘We get to talk about things and we all feel comfortable’*

*‘It lets you speak freely and is really good because it gives you the chance to speak’*

The children described the chatty council as *‘good, brilliant, excellent, fantastic, exciting, safe and happy’*.

*‘Everything we ask for Yvonne talks about in assembly then she decides what would be right!’*

It is on the recommendation of the children that Eden Hall Community Primary School have its Investing in Children Membership renewed and I whole heartedly agree.

Well Done!

This report has been endorsed by the children.

**Eleanor Seed  
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Investing in Children  
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