



Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

Esh Winning Library

The Excellent Esh Group are the Chatterbooks group from Esh Wining Library. The Chatterbooks group have met over the last three years, reading books and sharing their views about books they read. Unfortunately for the library, members of the group have moved onto comprehensive school and have other commitments. Due to this, they no longer attend the group.

I met with Anne one of the workers from Esh Winning Library and some young people who use the Library: **Megan, Cassie, Sarah, Abbey, Chloe, Bethany, Lakota and Jamie.** They told me all about the goings on.

The Notice board: highlights activities that are happening in the library. Website addresses are available. Any other information that may be of interest to children and young people will be displayed by young people and staff.

Evidence of Dialogue and Change:

Magazine Swap: is still running successfully. Children and young people enjoy bringing magazines in to swap with each other. The chatterbooks group came up with the idea last year and staff continue to maintain their idea.

Activities/Events/Competitions: Anne explained that this year is national reading year; Anne is currently waiting to see what funding will be made available to the Library. An author will be visiting Esh Winning; and children and young people will have a choice of who they would like to meet.

Easter egg competitions take place each year. The Parish Council fund the library to buy Easter eggs for all of the children who enter the competition. Last year there were over eighty entries.

Bethany told me: *“ I love designing eggs, Anne makes sure we have all the paints and crafts we need, and if we need more we just ask.”*

Crafts: take place every Thursday straight after school Anne makes sure equipment is available. Children and young people can design and make what they wish. Parents/carers are welcome to join in as well.

Megan: *“ I love doing art, that’s why I come here.”*

Book stock: Esh Winning Library tries to accommodate children and young people’s high demand for books they would like ordered. Anne explained: **“ Recently we had a large request for Simpson’s books and Where’s Walley books so we ordered a big collection. The young people were very happy.”**

Lakota: *“ I ask Anne to order me books and she does.”*

Displays: displays within the Library mainly come from the local school, Anne explained after Easter the young people are keen to get started on their two headed dragon display they have been planning, staff will support the young people to do this.

I asked the children and young people while they were busy doing their crafts what they enjoyed about Esh Winning Library and if they feel they are listened to:

Megan: *“ Like coming here coz I like art.”*

Cassie: *“ I come here because you get listened to, staff help you if you are struggling with anything.”*

Chloe: *“ It’s good you get to do anything you want, staff are nice, and they listen to you. We get to go on the computers to play games, we go on when we want.”*

More children’s involvement:

Sure Start: the Library provides space for Sure Start story time every week. Sure Start also runs a ‘Toy Library’ session every two weeks on a Friday.

Class Visits: every Monday all eleven classes from Esh Winning Primary visit the library, swapping books they have read for new ones.

Café: as the library is attached to the local community centre it benefits from some community activity. Children and young people enjoy coming into the café after school on Tuesdays for drinks and food with other members of the community.

Computers: the library benefits from a computer funded by Sure Start. This is situated in the junior library for use by children and young people when they wish.

The young people were keen to point out that they can use the computer when they wish, to do homework, play games and research etc...

Recommendations:

Children and young people I spoke with said they would like to make their own suggestion box and display it within the library and I feel this would be a very good idea. It will create an opportunity for young people/parents/carers/members of the public to be able to comment and make suggestions on their library.

Children and young people are obviously very comfortable with all of the team and have said that they do feel listened to. Therefore in respect of the children’s increased participation within the library service I would recommend that Esh Winning library continues to be an Investing in Children member.

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