



## Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

### Gainford Primary School

Gainford C of E Primary School is situated in the village of Gainford near Darlington. It's a small, friendly and colourful village primary school.

For the purpose of this re-evaluation I spoke with Mr Blindt (the Head teacher) on the phone and arranged to meet with members of the school council.

Since the last evaluation in February 2007 there have been significant changes and developments at the school.

The children I met with, Mathew, Kyle, Alastair, Daisy, Grace, Adam, Katie, Cherry, Tallulah and Jacob were all extremely happy and at home during my visit and were keen to tell me all about their school, the type of projects they have been involved in and the decisions they make as well as what being on the school council means to them.

I would like to say a special thanks to them for their involvement in this process.

### Opportunities for Dialogue and Change

#### School Council

- The school council continues to meet every week usually on a lunch time.

*"We meet just after lunch"*

*"We are supposed to meet every two weeks but we meet every week now"*

- **Nomination** – Children continue to be nominated onto the school council by their class mates and not just picked by the teachers.

*"We are elected every term so that lots of people can get a go"*

*"We had to write a speech and then they voted for us"*

*"It's really exciting"*

*"It's fair that we have a term each, then as many people possible can have a go on the council"*

*"It's really nice for me to work with the school council as you get to see a different side to pupils, not just their academic side" Mrs Kidd*

- **Voting** – The School Council members make decisions at their meeting by voting.  
*"We all sit round and talk about things"*

- **Minute Taking** – The minutes at the meeting are taken and kept in a special book.

*“We have a book to write what we talk about in”*

- **Notice Boards** – The school Council have their own notice board in the main corridor which tells pupils all about the school council.

*“We have notice boards up so that everyone knows what’s happening”*

- **Assemblies** – The children told me how they sometimes go to the assemblies to tell other pupils what they are doing.

*“Sometimes we go to assemblies or in our class to give announcements”*

- **Goal Posts** – The children told me that they have been talking about the goal posts at the school as they are damaged.

*“We need some new goal posts as they are falling apart”*

*“We decided to get the goal posts taped until we can get some new ones so that they last longer”*

*“We are having an Easter competition to make cards and sell them for 20p and 50p”*

- **Packed Lunches** –

*“We have talked at our meetings about how pupils who have packed lunches were not allowed to sit with pupils who are eating school dinners. We didn’t like this as they were our friends and we all wanted to sit together”*

*“Before you used to sit in a line”*

- **Storage** – One of the outcomes from the school council was getting more storage for the school.

*“We needed more storage for our equipment to go in”*

*“We got cupboards for our play ground equipment so you can just get things out of them when needed”*

- **Other People** –

*“We have talked to school inspectors, church inspectors and other organisations”*

- **Toilets** –

*“We chose what colour to paint them as they needed decorating”*

- **Equipment** – The school council were keen to tell me all about how the last council got new equipment for the school yard.

*“It’s really good now!!”*

*“It’s in the shape of a D”*

The children also told me about how they asked and got more computers with cases for the school.

- **Play Ground** – The pupils told me all about the changes they have made to the school playground.

*“When it was the cricket season we used to chalk our scores on the wall but it always used to come off so we asked for something more permanent so now we have it painted on”*

*“We also asked for new bats and balls”*

*“We got the markings on the playground re-done as you couldn’t see them”*

- **Sports Day** –

*“Every year we have a sports day”*

*“It’s really fun, we have relays, tug of war, sack races and you get to sponge Mr Blindt”*

*“Adults can take part as well”*

- **Christmas Dinner** –

*“When it’s Christmas we get asked what we want to have for dinner”*

- **Water Machines** –

*“We got a water machine for the school”*

- **Fundraising** –

*“We do loads of fundraising”*

*“For Red nose day we had a non-uniform day and you had to wear a red nose. We had cake stalls and raised money for Butterwick Hospice”*

*“We have a Christmas fair”*

*“We raised money to get bike racks at the school”*

*“Knits and Knots – we entered this into a competition to raise money”*

- **Yard** –

*“We asked that pupils could go into the yard at dinner time. Mrs Kidd then spoke with the dinner ladies and now we are allowed”*

## **Conclusion**

Gainford Primary School continues to support active dialogue with the children in the school and positive changes have been made. The school council is very much owned by the children.

*“I like the school council because it’s actually helping people”* **Cherry**

There have been many achievements and changes at the school since the last evaluation. There continues to be an active school council which receives the full support of the teaching staff and head teacher.

On behalf of the children who helped me write this report I have no hesitation but to recommend that Gainford Primary School have their Investing in Children Membership renewed.

This report has been endorsed by school council members and I would like to say a special Thank you and Well done for all their hard work and wish the school good luck for the future.

**Eleanor Seed**  
**Investing in Children**  
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