



Evaluation for Investing in Children membership

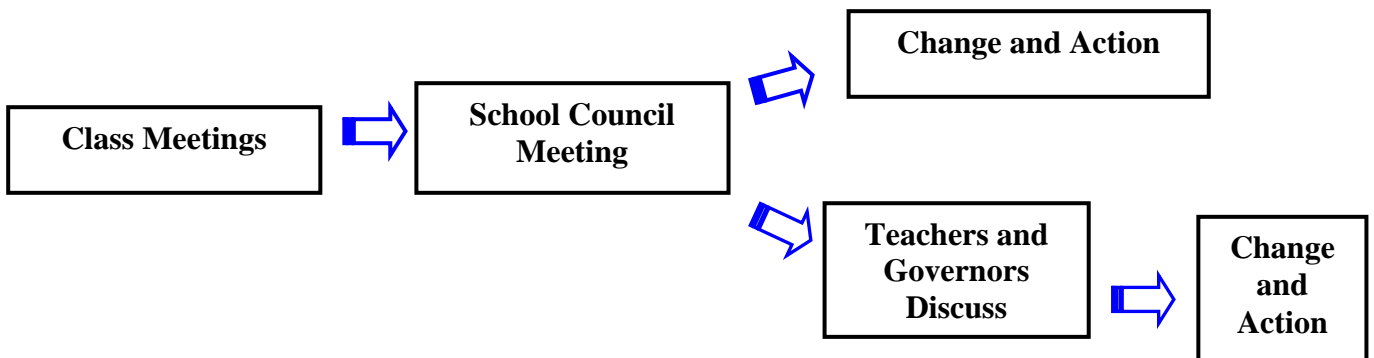
Ingleton C of E Primary School

Ingleton Primary School is a very small school with only 52 pupils attending. On my visit to the school I met with Mrs Pressley the head teacher at the school. She told me all about the school and how the children are involved in decision making and having a say.

Mrs Pressley explained that the school council is the main mechanism in the school for young people to have a voice.

The school council is made up of 9 children aged between 7 to 11 years. Mainly year six pupils although there are some younger children involved. They meet on a weekly basis and pupil reps from each class take the issues raised to the school council.

The Diagram shows how children are involved in decision making at the school:-



Self Evaluation

Mrs Pressley told me how she is currently doing a self evaluation of the school. She has been talking to pupils and getting them to fill in questionnaires about school and any improvements they would like to see happening. I thought this was an excellent way of gathering the children's views and I have never come across this in any of the schools I have worked in, in the past. I was pleased to see that a head teacher was taking on such a role.

She then went on to tell me about her plans for the future and said she would like it if school governors could attend school council meetings and that this is something she would like to set up over the next year.

I then went to meet the children who sit on the school council and would like to say a special thanks to them for their involvement in writing this report.

They are Joseph, Jessica, Emily, Andrew, Bethany, Mathew, Marcus and Olivia.

The children were extremely chatty and very keen to tell me all about the work they have been doing in school.

Opportunities for Dialogue and Change

Fundraising

The group told me all about the fundraising activities they have organised. These include;

- Friday Fun Day:

'Every week at Friday morning break we have groups of pupils who sell toys, games and cakes which we make'

'We have competitions like "Guess how many sweets are in the jar" to raise money'

- Non Uniform Day:

'We organise days to raise money for the school'

- Tsunami Appeal:

'We raised money for this'

- Mile Run:

'We raised money for Butterwick Hospice for people with Cancer. It was really hard to run a mile'

'We sold teddies for Butterwick Hospice'

- Easter:

'At Easter we plan to make Easter bunnies, chicks and decorate eggs and sell them to raise money for the school'

'We are going to have a non uniform day at Easter. You can dress up if you want but if you don't have anything to wear you can just wear yellow!'

- Laptops:

'We needed some laptops for our classrooms so we didn't have to queue all the time to use the teacher's computer. We raised money for six laptops.'

- Great North Run:

'Mrs Jones was doing the Great North Run so as a school we decided to help her'

School Activities, Events and Projects

- School Kids:

'This is our after school club. We have different activities you can do like tennis, football, gymnastics and chess. We say what we want on...'

'We wanted a football table so we asked and have now got one'

'We can have tea here as well say if we are going to the after school club'

- CC4G:

The girls told me about the CC4G (Computers Club for Girls) club that runs from the school.

'We get to go online on this website www.cc4g.net you get to choose costumes etc for your model and then have a photo shoot.

'Mr Nicholson comes into help with the computers'

The boys commented saying *'We should have a club for the boys so it's fair'*

- Drinks in break time:

'We decided that in break times children should be able to have hot chocolate in the winter and fruit juice in the summer. This now happens'

- Holly the Rabbit:

'We have a school rabbit called Holly she is about 7 or 8 years old. Sometimes we raise money for her so she can go to the vet. She has cataracts!!'

- School Merchandise:

'We organised an art competition when our new school was built. You had to draw a picture of the old school and the new and if you won it would go on mugs to sell for the school. Emily and Tom won'

'We decided to make a CD called 'Christmas Wish'. It was on the TV on ITV news and got to No 8 in the American charts. So we have had a top ten hit. We sell them to raise money'

'We also make copies of all our plays we perform every year. Last year it was Good Night Mr Tom'

'We make T-towels every two years with our designs on and calendars and cups'

- World Book Day:

'We do this every year it's really good you get to dress up as your favourite characters'

- Competitions:

'We like to organise things so we held a conker competition you had to make something using conkers like trains'

'We also held a talent competition'

- School Council:

The pupils told me how they get involved in the school council.

'You had to say if you wanted to be on the school council. Other pupils in the class would then vote for who they thought should be on it.'

'Sometimes the teachers suggest some people but usually you get to pick'

'It's normally best voting' although some of the boys said 'it is unfair as there are a lot more girls in the school'

'You are on the school council for usually a term unless you are in year 6 and depending on how many pupils are in each class you can be on for a full year'

'The class councils get to choose what the school council talk about'

'We have buddies in years 5 and 6'

- Football Nets:

'When our school football team were playing football on the school field they kept kicking the ball over into the farmers field so we decided to get some big netting put up to stop this'

- School Dinners:

'Every week we get a letter sent out about school dinners with a menu and we have to choose what we want for dinner that week.'

'We can also take packed lunch into school if we want'

Ketchup:

'We wrote to Gordon Brown complaining that ketchup was not allowed on school dinners anymore and that we did not think this was right!! We got a letter back and it said that we could have ketchup at the school but only in small sachets instead of bottles. We were happy with this.'

Community Activities

The school Council had lots to say when it came to things they had done for the village.

- Church:

'We help at the Harvest Festival. We always make a big basket of fruit and food and give it to the old people in the village'

- Tesco's:

'We have started to order food for people on-line and deliver it to their houses'

- Litter Picking Day:

'We all work together. Every year we hold a litter picking day.'

- Newsletter:

'We used to do a newsletter and used to give it out to the community'

'We should start this again'

- Village Fairs:

'We have our own stall at the village fair with our cups and pens on that we design'

- Friends of Ingleton School:

'Sometimes parents come into help and Friends of Ingleton School come into help us to organise big things, fundraise and do things for everyone'

Conclusion

I was extremely impressed with the way in which Ingleton Primary School involve children in Decision making and Change. The children I met with spoke highly of their involvement and all agreed they are able to play an active role in the way the school is run and the type of activities and projects that take place.

Ingleton Primary School have developed a mechanism to involve not just the school council members but also the whole school in having a voice and work closely with teachers, governors, parents and friends of Ingleton School.

The school clearly provides opportunities for the children to be included, make choices and have fun. In respect of this continued commitment I fully recommend on behalf of the children that Ingleton C of E Primary School becomes an Investing in Children member.

This report has been endorsed by children at the school.

Eleanor Seed
Investing in Children
March 2008