



## Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

### Laurel Avenue Primary School

For the purpose of this re-evaluation I met with members of the school council, the School Nutrition Advice Group (SNAG), Buddies and Mini Buddies and School Mediators. Laurel Avenue Primary continues to provide opportunities for young people and staff to discuss different issues at the school. School council members frequently meet with the class they represent, and this gives most young people at the school an opportunity to have their say and helps generate ideas within the school.

The school council continues to meet every two weeks. The school council members hold class councils before they meet, to gather the issues that other children want to discuss. **'We ask people in our class during class meetings what they would like us to do on the school council; we then talk about it at these meetings every two weeks.'**

This report will highlight and identify the positive partnerships that exist between young people and teachers to bring about change within the school.

#### **Evidence of dialogue and change**

I asked the children to explain to me what changes they have made within school since the last time they met with Investing in Children.

#### **Good Box**

The children informed me that during class and school councils they talked about how they could say thank you to other children who had done something nice for others. **"The buddies noticed that during play time some people were being kind but we didn't have a way of saying thank you. So we made the good box, if you see someone being nice you write their name on a piece of paper and put it in, the person with their name in the box the most, gets a treat at the end of each term."**

#### **Playground**

An area of change that has occurred since the last evaluation is the alterations made to the school playground. The children were very excited to inform me of the changes they have made this year to the school yard and playtime. The children told me about plans for an outdoor play area. **"We wanted a basketball hoop outside and we got it." "We also wanted a calm zone; we have blue chairs and new games." "The best things are the outside board games, like the big naughts and crosses."**

#### **Worry Box**

The school has a worry box for pupils to use. **"If you're worried about anything Mrs Vayro looks at them, she comes and gets you and you talk to her."** All of the children talked about the fact that the box was locked, they had felt that this was important, because that kept things private.

## **Recommendations**

It is evident from meeting with the children at Laurel Avenue primary school that they are given the freedom to develop their own ideas and as a result of this they make changes to school life to meet their needs. The children are actively involved in real decision making, with a real budget, giving them a true voice in matters that affect their lives.

All the children and young people who I spoke to were happy with the service that Laurel Avenue Primary offers; however they would like to work on a few changes which they recommend they work on with the staff team over the next year;

**“We should do more work on improving the school playground and we should be allowed to play on the community playground. We can see it but not use it and that is unfair.”**

**“We should have separate playgrounds, one for the bigger kids and one the little ones.”**

**“Have more community events in school and with the money buy new games for the playground.”**

All the young people I met with were very positive about Laurel Avenue Primary. They feel that they have the opportunity to participate in the direction of the school as a whole. The young people involved in this report agree with the content and recommendations made. Therefore it is on their behalf that I have no hesitation in recommending that Laurel Avenue Primary continue to be an Investing in Children member.

**Kim Kyle  
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