



Re- Evaluation for Investing in Children membership:

Eden Community Primary School

Eden Community Primary School is situated in Peterlee in the east of County Durham. The school comprises of two separate main buildings which are divided by a busy estate road. The age range of children who attend the school is from 3 to 11.

Dialogue with Children

Since the last evaluation efforts continue to ensure children are engaged in dialogue and in providing children with the opportunity to have a say in decisions that affect them. Jenny still supports the Chatty Council. The Chatty Council continues to enable children to have their say while the school staff continue to encourage the children to actively contribute and to be involved in all aspects of their school life.

For this evaluation I had the pleasure of meeting Leanne, Rosie, Shannon, Jessica, Chloe, Vikky, Clair, Sophie, Thomas, Harry, Rachel, Paul, Sean, Liam, Michael, Shane, Amanda, Chloe F, Mia, Matthew, Damien, Brodi and Alex.

Evidence of Dialogue and Change

Chatty Council:

The Chatty Council has two representatives from each class, ranging from nursery to year 6. Each week every class has a discussion around any concerns or ideas they have and the representatives take these to the council. However, the council representatives told me that a lot of the councillors were having difficulty getting feedback time in the classroom. Amanda said, **“Everyone is supposed to tell us things at feedback time, but teachers were forgetting about it. Even though we kept asking”** After discussing the problem the all councillors decided to all filled in a Suggestion Form complaining about this. Amanda added, **“The Suggestion Boxes are in the dining hall. They are sealed and don’t get opened until they are taken to the Governors meeting. And then they get opened in front of the Governors.”** Now all the classes get their feedback time.

Play Time

Claire told me lots of children asked the Chatty Council to ask for more games for indoor break times. She said, **“Each class got £100 to choose what they would like.”** Alex added, **“We looked in some catalogues.”** Claire continued, **“We had a vote in class to decide what would go into our wet playtime boxes.”**

Amanda then started to tell me about the new games for the 3 school yards. She said, **“We asked at feedback time what games people wanted. And we asked in assembly.”** Alex added, **“But people just come up and tell you as well.”** The Chatty Council then made up a list of games that were most requested by all the children and then passed this to the Head Teacher. As a result everyone can now play with Space Hoppers, Shoot and Catch and bats and balls.

After School Clubs

All the children at Eden Community Primary School have suggested lots of ideas for After School Clubs. Amanda said, **“Everybody tells us at feedback time what they want.”** So far the clubs include: Computer Club, Cricket, Gymnastics, Tennis, Fencing, Art and French.

However, lots of children were asking for a Football Club and they really wanted a school football team. Jenny now holds a lunch time football session for everyone who wants to play. Also Harry explained, **“Jenny and Miss Williamson run our team. There are some girls on our team, but mostly boys. We played our first match and lost 3-1.”** The team are hoping to join a football league this year. I am looking forward to hearing how Eden Community Primary Football team get on!

School Policy:

The children at Eden Community Primary School have been asked to discuss policies on bullying. Children were asked what they thought of the policy and if they had any objections to anything. The Chatty Councillors proudly told me that they have had lots of discussions about the School’s Anti Bullying policy which has resulted in a representative of the Chatty Council signing a Anti Bullying Charter with the Head Teacher.

School Trips

Alex told me that a school fund is used to pay for trips for all the children. He said, **“We use it for all the school trips, like when we go to the beach.”** Liam added, **“After the Sats we always go to Wet n Wild. That’s where we always ask to go. It’s really good there.”**

School Meals

Recently the Chatty Council have carried out a school meals survey to find out which foods the children would like. They designed a questionnaire for all the children to fill in. Alex said, **“We found out what people liked, what they would like but we also made a list of what people didn’t like.”** Top of the list for dislikes were sprouts, beetroot, mince crumble and cauliflower cheese (See list attached) Rachel and Alex are taking these findings to a meeting they are having with the Governors and the school Chef. They are going to talk about what food people like and dislike and use this information to provide the meals everyone enjoys!

The Chatty Council at Eden Community Primary School contributes towards many aspects of running their school. Amanda told me, **“The Chatty Council makes the school a better place”** while Sean agreed, **“It makes people happy.”** However, this is just one of many ways that everyone has a voice in the school. Children in the school are actively encouraged to participate and contribute to the running and development of the school and the children and staff work very hard at valuing all ideas and opinions.

I would like to thank everyone who helped me to write this evaluation. All the children I spoke to were in full agreement that Eden Community Primary School once again receives Investing In Children Membership. Well done.

Glenys Newby
Investing in Children
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