



## Re- Evaluation for Investing in Children membership:

### Laurel Avenue Primary School

For the purpose of this re-evaluation I met with some children who were members of the class council and also some children who take the role of buddies and who seem to continue to do a really good job at the school during breaktimes. I also had the pleasure of meeting with some children from the reception class.

The school continues to give all children the opportunity to get involved in decision making and continues to encourage children to have an active voice in the running of the school. The school also allows the children the opportunity to discuss many different issues that are important to the children. The school positively encourages its pupils to think independently and respects their views and opinions. This can be seen in the debate between teachers and children of the return of dodge ball to the play ground during breaks.

### Evidence of Dialogue and Change

#### **Class Council**

**This continues to allow children and teachers the opportunity to talk about different things that are going on within the school and for the teachers to gain the very important opinions and views of the children. The class council and other children in the school have been raising money for the Butterwick Hospice. Leone told me,**” We have been raising money and we make everyone happy in school”, **Amy added,** “ In my class you stand up and say what you want, I am not so shy anymore and like asking my friends about different things in school”. **The class council have been discussing an idea, which has been introduced to the school, which is a ‘Good Talk Wall’. Members of class two wanted to know if they could choose to put their idea on the ‘Good Talk Wall’ or into the happy box. It was agreed that children could choose where they wanted to put their ideas.**

#### **School Council**

**The school council is made up of different children from years 3 and 4 who continue to represent young people of the school. Members are voted onto the council by their class mates, or in some cases, can take it in turns to represent the views and opinions of the different classes they represent. This is decided by the children of the class. Liam explained,** “We go to people’s classes and tell them what we have been talking about in the school council and ask them what they want to do and what they have been talking about in class council”. **The school council asked for drinks in classes. Liam explained how this idea had come about,** “ Class 4 brought it up at the school council and they said it might help concentration”. **The school has responded to this request and has introduced water bottles to the different classes as a pilot scheme and have involved the school council in making some rules for drinking in class and evaluating how**

**things are going. Jack, a member of the school council also told me about another idea, which had come from some of his class friends. This was the idea of a P.E kit. He told me why this was a good idea, “ Everyone does not have the good makes so I think it will stop bullying and arguing in P.E if we all wear the same”. The school are now working in partnership with all the children of the school to find out what they think about this idea.**

### **Peer Mediators**

The peer mediators have grown in status within the school and have now given these children the opportunity to come up with the idea of how children can get along with one another. Shannon explained, “ **We now write on a sheet of paper what we want to happen in school. Leona explained, “ We wanted people to keep their hands and feet to themselves on the yard and we want cat and mouse more often because that makes people happy”.** This is something children are discussing with the school. Shannon enthusiastically told me, “ **Year six run the mediators, what we have to do is when people have been fighting we sort their problems out for them and they decided to be friends”**

### **Lively Laurels**

This continues to give children the opportunity to get involved in decision-making and some changes have been made to how the activity club is run. Last year, all the children of the school accessed the activities on offer at the club every day. This year it was decided to change it to make sure all children got to use the toys. Amy told me, “**Every class gets a go now, class one is on a Monday when it’s their turn to have toys to play with. On Tuesday it’s class 2 for the toys, Wednesday is class 3’s turn to play with toys. On Thursday it’s class 4’s turn to play and on Friday everybody plays with toys”.**

### **Reception Class**

When I met the reception class they also told me how they get listened to and discussed some of the ideas that they have come up with. Hannah told me, “**We can now play with jewellery and have a shop”.** Kellie added, “ **We now take money in and sell the jewellery”.** The reception classroom teachers and assistants listened to what different children liked to do and responded to this and made some changes, such as buying some toy jewellery so children can play and have fun when attending school.

Ann-lie told me about her favourite book, “ **I like Hairy McClairy from Donaldon’s Dairy”.** The children decide which books they like and will get the chance to have their choice of book read during reading time by the reception class teachers.

When I asked the group about whether they thought their school listened to them, they all said yes, and that they might not always get everything they ask for, they are always told why and come up with other ideas. When I asked if their school should receive Investing In Children Membership they all said “Yes” and I have no hesitation in agreeing with them.

I would like to finish by saying thank you to all the children and staff at Laurel Avenue Primary School and finish by saying well done!

This report has been read and agreed by the following young people:  
Sarah, Jack, Amy, Shannon, Olivia, Marshall, Leona, Liam, Adam, Liam and  
Jamie-Lee.

**Rob Johnson**  
**Investing in Children**  
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