



investing in children

Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

Hawthorn Primary School

For the purpose of writing this re-evaluation I spoke to: Asima, Mozibur, Tamanna, Niki, Jodie, Steven, Nadira, Emma, Sean, Andrew, Rebecca, Hailey, Michael, Stacey, Natalia and Britney. Some of these children were members of the school council, others were members of the ARC unit and everyone ranged from 2-6.

Evidence of dialogue with children:

- Suggestion box – the school council have created a suggestion box for the children to put in suggestions and ideas. One suggestion made by a child was that there should be more clubs available so the school council have been involved in developing and creating some clubs. These include: football, art club (most popular!), homework club, dancing and gymnastics.
- The school council have been raising money for their school by designing and selling cards and biscuits. All money that the school council spends, is raised by them.
- The council are having a book club at the moment to raise money for the school.
- Some children were involved in the U Decide event at St James' Park. The after school club won lots of money and they are spending it on new playground equipment and art equipment. The see-saw was burnt so the children would like to see that replaced and they would also like to see a slide and some swings.
- Mrs Cowgill asked the school during assembly what they would like to change in the school. Year 6 decided that they would like a new football pitch.
- Year 2 are getting £2000 for them to re-design their playground. The older children have been working with the younger ones to decide what they would like to see in their playground.
- A colouring club has been set up in the corner of the playground for the children, as requested by them.
- The school council asked for a sandpit and waterfall to be created to make it nice for the younger ones because everything has been burnt. They have one in the big yard so they thought it would be nice to have one in the younger yard.
- The school council were involved in picking the teacher to run the dressing up club. They chose Paula.
- The children in year 4 and 5 chose to do a play at the end of term. They are doing Joseph and The Amazing Technicoloured Dreamcoat.
- Some children who are in the Arc have developed a 3 day football session over lunch times to raise money for the enterprise (to raise money for the school). They raised £24.50 by charging everyone who wanted to be involved 50p per session. Sean and Michael wrote the booklet with all of the information in, created the posters, evaluation forms and lunchtime passes.
- Andrew has been making magnets to sell as part of the beach topic. He made things like: fish, seahorses and underwater chests.
- The children felt that the main decision that they are involved with is how to make the school a better place. The suggestions they made became a reality when they received their plants, water fountain and willow tree.

Recommendations made by the children:

- “We should have a mini park”
- “Swings”
- “The school should buy a climbing frame because people climb places where they aren’t allowed, like up trees”
- “A basketball hoop with a net”
- “It would be nice to get the willow fixed because it has been damaged”
- “A sheltered place in the playground with a door on for the outdoor clubs”
- “Big bikes for the big kids to use”
- “Half the bike shed with the younger kids so we can have some bikes”
- “Turf should be on the football pitch”
- “We should have non uniform days”
- “Get TVs in classrooms because ARC have them”
- “Get your own desk because they are crowded and some people need to work on their own”
- “More space”
- “Too many stairs”
- “I would like a Wendy house”
- “It would be good if we could get a gate so we can come in and play on a night time”
- “Get a slide like Leazes Park”
- “I would like a maze and a tunnel in the little yard with a monster at the end of it”
- More things to do on a rainy day
- Crab football club
- Basketball net in the hall

Hawthorn Primary has demonstrated that change has come about as a result of what the children have said within their school. All of the children that I spoke to happily said that they felt that they are listened too within the school and more importantly like their opinions are taken seriously and listened too. As a result of this I would like to recommend them for another year of Investing in Children membership.

The children and young people I have spoken to have agreed this report and the recommendations.

Ashleigh Greathead
Investing in Children
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