



## Re- Evaluation for Investing in Children membership:

### Dene House Primary

Dene House Primary School is situated in Peterlee. The school caters for 321 pupils aged 4-11 years old.

I met with Mr Ayre and some young people from the school council – **Amy, Emma, Lucy, Nicole, Tylor, Christopher, Reece, Brandon, Nathaniel, Daniel, David, and Ellie** on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2007.

I had a brief chat with Mr Ayre before I spoke with the young people, My Ayre explained to me the importance of involving the children in decision making, and giving children an opportunity to express their views and opinions on issues that affect their lives.

Mr Ayre told me about the Class Councils that the school operates, this is a way for classes to feed into the main school Council, and Mr Ayre is pushing this method of practice with members of staff.

Mr Ayre and staff create spaces for children to discuss issues that are affecting them, for example a group of children had arranged a meeting with Mr Ayre to discuss the smell of the soap.

The children I talked to who are members of the school council said –

**“ Year 5 and 6 have orange soap and it’s horrible, we want pink soap like the infants, we talked to Mr Ayre about this, he is getting back to us soon, hopefully we will be getting pink soap soon.”**

Dene House Primary school have ‘Children Stake Holders Reviews’ in the form of a display, children can write on the display what they would like to see within their school, Mr Ayre showed me the display, children had written a variety of activities they would like to see happen, for example more discos.

Children in year 6 are given the opportunity to complete a questionnaire which they can express their views and opinions about their time within Dene House Primary.

Mr Ayre showed me some completed examples of the questionnaires.

Mr Ayre gave me the impression that he is always keen to listen to the children’s views and opinions, whether it’s about soap or exams, as long as it matters to the children.

I spoke with some children from the school council, they told me what they had been busy working on –

**“ We have been organising a school disco that will take place every term, different themed ones, like Halloween, Easter, Christmas etc. Mrs Cook has been dead helpful with this. “**

All of the children were happy with the progress of the disco arrangements, and pleased it was taking place.

**“ The taps in year 3 and 4 toilets were getting very hot, we talked to our teacher, she has sorted this out, so the taps are no longer too hot anymore.”**

The children talked to me about their class council and explained how this fed into the main school council –

**“ Everyone gets a voice and a chance to talk about what they want, we explained what the class council was all about to each class, so that all knew what was happening.”**

The children explained the new park –

**“ The infants had a much better park than ours, we talked to My Ayre about it, we drew out our own plans of how we wanted it to look and what we wanted in the park, it’s getting built now, we cant wait!!”**

Taylor explained the year 6’s leaving party.

**“ We decided to arrange a goodbye party for the year 6’s in the school hall, we have got our DJ booked, On Track and the teachers have helped us with this.”**

I asked the children if they felt they were listened to by their teachers –




**“ It’s easy to talk to our teachers.”**

Reece stated –

**“It’s good because you get a chance to apologise or explain yourself if you have done something wrong, the teacher’s don’t jump to conclusions.”**

**Recommendations –**

The children would like these recommendations to be effectively acted upon –

-  At Dinner time, can we please have the chocolate cake and fruit separate instead of the fruit inside the cake?
-  Can we have longer to take a drink out of the water fountain?
-  Continue to listen to us!

I was made to feel very welcome within Dene House Primary School by the children and staff.

I would recommend Dene House Primary receives Investing in Children Membership due to their commitment of ensuring children's views and opinions are listened to and acted upon.

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