



Re- Evaluation for Investing in Children membership:

Laxey Primary School

Since Laxey Primary School achieved Investing in Children status in February 2007, there has been a change in leadership.

On 19th March 2007 I met with the acting head, Jean Axoy, who explained that the change in leadership has meant that the school council didn't meet for a while and has only recently been up and running. However dialogue has continued and changes have continued over the past year.

Children in years 4, 5 and 6 who wanted to be considered for the school council had to write a 'piece' about themselves and why they think they should be elected. Six school councilors were elected in assembly and their first meeting took place in September 2006.

I met with representatives of the school council, **Peter, Louisa, Dylan, Maddie, Owen and Eleanor**, on 21st March 2007, who informed me of how they've been working with staff in the school and the changes that have taken place as a result.

Dialogue and Change

Suggestion books

Dylan said that the school council has put books in each class so that the children can write in their suggestions on what they would like to see change. **Maddie** added that the suggestions are taken to the next council meeting where they discuss them with Mrs Axoy to see what can be done. The decisions are fed back to the whole school in assembly.

Fund Raising

The school council have been involved in organizing fund raising events such as the Blue Peter Shoe Appeal, 'silly wellies' day and coffee mornings for the Macmillan Nurses. The children felt that this was very important. Having been involved in the Blue Peter appeal **Peter** said that the school continues to recycle.

Clubs

Peter said that as a result of asking children in the school what they want there are more clubs now. There's the Chess Club, Stamp club and Recorder Club, writing Club for Years 3 and 4 and the Gardening Club for Key stage 1.

Lunch

A salad bar has been introduced which has improved choices at lunchtime.

Playing on the campsite

An issue raised by the children last year was that they would like to be able to play on the 'campsite' area. Years 5 and 6 are now able to play football here where there are new goalposts.

Equipment

The children in the school wanted more things to do at playtime. *Eleanor* said that the school council chose the new playground equipment from a catalogue. There are tyres, picnic tables and benches and a quiet area to sit outside the classroom.

Animals

Dylan said that children had asked for pets in the school now some classes have fish and tadpoles.

Continuing dialogue

In view of the fact that the school council is relatively new the children mentioned things they'd like to see in future.

Tuck shop

Children in the school would like to have a tuck shop. Mrs Axoy said that this was too big to organize at the present time but would try to move forward with it in the future.

Sports activity

The children enjoyed doing circuit training and would like to get this going again. Although circuit training is not available, rounders has been introduced.

Buddy system

The children expressed the view that bullying is a problem in the school. The buddy system helped with this and so the buddy system is up and running again.

Newsletter

The group said that a 'Newsletter' informing everyone about what's happening in the school would be a good idea.

The School Council

The council has not been running for long and so the school council representatives had some ideas as to how they would like to see it develop. They would like to have set meeting times so that everyone knows when they're on. They would also like to have more information about how other school councils operate and so they can improve their meetings.

Conclusions

Despite changes in leadership and a break in the running of the school council, the children in Laxey Primary School have continued to be involved in putting forward their suggestions for developing the school, which has been

supported by staff. This dialogue has resulted in various changes to life in the school.

In addition to identifying the need to develop the way the school council operates, the councilors raised issues which they feel need to be discussed and resolved in future. Having met staff in the school I am in no doubt that the dialogue will continue between the children and staff in order to achieve this. I therefore recommend that Laxey Primary School continue to be an Investing in Children member for another year.

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Investing in Children
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