



Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

Canning Street Primary School

Canning Street Primary is a very busy school going through a lot of changes. The atmosphere created by staff and children is very welcoming and warm. It was apparent that the children are at the centre of all that occurs within the school.

This report will highlight and identify the positive partnership that exists between the children and the teachers to bring about changes within the school. The council continues to meet every two weeks. The school council members hold class councils before they meet, to gather the issues that other children want to discuss. **'We ask people in our class during class meetings what they would like us to do on the school council; we then talk about it at these meetings every two weeks.'**

Since last years evaluation changes have been made and projects developed as a result of the ongoing dialogue between staff and children, particularly in relation to the opening of the new school.

Evidence of Dialogue and Change is taken from discussions I had with the schools council. I spoke with Anna, Abiodun, Tarek, Amena, Liam and Nadia.

I asked the school council to explain to me what changes they have made within the school since the last time they met with Investing in Children.

The children were very excited to inform me of the changes they have made this year to the school yard and playtime.

The council and the teachers discussed their concerns over the issue of safety during play and lunchtimes as some children were falling over and hurting themselves. This has been an on going discussion in school. The council discussed safety in the yard and took the issue to the class councils. The council told me that they wanted to change how people played in the yard, as people were climbing on the seats. **"We decided to change playtime. Some of us have done a play ground leader course and we are now School Sports Co-coordinators. We all play together. If anyone gets left out we include them."** Liam also informed me that there are a lot of children at Canning Street Primary from different countries who have just moved onto the Benwell terraces. **"We buddy up, so they don't feel alone. We make friends in school then it is someone for the new people to talk to when on the terraces."** Anna informed me of why she thought this was a good change in the school. **"We all play together in the yard now. We teach other children how to play new games, if people can't speak the English we have designed picture cards for different things so we can talk in a different way"**

Some of the children have been working alongside the architects to ensure that they listen to what they want from the new building. **"Some of the school council who have now left went to visit other schools to see what would be good in our school."**

The children are currently planning what colours they would like the school to be painted and are voting in their classes what the best colours would be. I look forward to seeing the results.

Tarek informed me that his class have been involved in designing the new school yard. **“We have met with the builders a lot about the school yard. When I had meetings with my class people wanted different play areas. We are having different zones for different years and also basketball, benches, quiet area and a theatre area.”** Abiodun added **“my class decided that we wanted a craze of the month zone. We are going to have new games every month and run competition with leagues. It will be great fun.”**

During my visits to Canning Street Primary I was made to feel welcome. I would like to thank everyone for helping me write this evaluation. The children and staff at Canning Street Primary work well together ensuring that everyone feels safe and comfortable to express their valued ideas and opinions. Members of the school council are involved in running their school and make real decisions about issues that affect them.

There is no doubt that Canning Street Primary provides the opportunity for all children to have a say and bring about meaningful change. When I asked the children if they agreed with this evaluation, there was a resounding YES. I therefore have no hesitation in recommending that Canning Street Primary School receives Investing in Children membership for another year.

Well done and good luck in the new school.

Kim Kyle
Investing in Children
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