



investing in children

## Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

### Dinnington First School

For the purpose of this re-evaluation I met with; Joseph (YR4), Michael (yr 4), James (Yr1), Jessica (Yr1), Katherine(Yr2), Hannah(Yr4), Elliot(Yr4) Georgina (YR4), Caitlin (Yr3), Glory (Yr2), Zoe (Yr 4) and Ruth (YR3) who are members of the school council. The school council continues to be central to the process of dialogue 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.’** A development over the last year has been the introduction of idea sheets designed by the school council to get everyone’s ideas **‘we came up with the idea sheets so we don’t forget what other children were telling us, they work really well’**.

Zoe and Hannah were asked to come back and help the school council as they have been on the council for a very long time and the members requested they stay on and help them.

### Evidence of Dialogue and Change

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.

#### After school clubs

The idea sheets helped the council to find out that a lot of the children were unhappy with the after school clubs. **“Our classes told us that they wanted the after school clubs to be better. They said that they wanted better equipment. We have about 10,202 vouchers for Tesco sports vouchers for schools. We have used these for better equipment. We have skipping ropes and games, we all voted on what to buy.”**

#### Playtime

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. Hannah informed me that **‘last year we bought the school buddies arm bands, so children knew who to go to if they were unhappy’**.

The council discussed safety in the yard and took the issue to the class councils. **‘We had a poster competition about how to play safe, we all voted on the winner and the posters are up on the walls in school’** (Elliot). 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. Year 4's have done a play ground leader course and we are now School Sports Co-ordinators. We all play together in the yard now. We teach other children how to play different games.'** (Michael)

### Garden

The Year 3 class discussed using the garden more often with their teacher as they enjoy being outside. **'We now go into the garden as much as possible, it is lovely'**.

### Cloak Rooms

Some children brought the issue of the cloak room to the council. **'They told us that the cloak rooms were messy and their coats got lost or messy and they wanted us to do something about it'**. The council provided the money from their budget to tidy the cloak rooms; they bought extra pegs and made the labels clearer. They have also put PE boxes in all of the classrooms, so people don't lose their PE kit, in the cloak room.

The council also informed me that they are looking at having separate cloak rooms for the different year groups. **'We had a school vote and we decided that it would help everyone keep their cloak room tidy we made up the Tidy Cloak Room Awards – the class with the TCR gets an award and keeps it for the whole week'**.

### Lunch Times

The school council told me that the main issue that the rest of the school raised on numerous occasions was that of school dinners and the dining hall.

**'We were also asked by other children if we could have menus in class every day so that we knew what we were going to get for our dinner. We have done this and each class has their own menu card.'**

Another issue was the mess in the dining hall. The children held a meeting with the teachers and the kitchen staff to try and resolve the problem. The children decided that the best course of action was to change the dining hall. **"We have a separate salad bar now; before, we got salad mixed in our food, but when we changed it, we also have better plates and bigger trolleys to put our dirty plates on, it was much better."**

### Animal Adopting

The school are supporting a local animal sanctuary. The idea came about after a member of year three visited the sanctuary.

Jessica informed me: **"each year is raising money to adopt an animal of their choice. We are raising the money ourselves my class has not raised enough yet are selling biscuits. We have all voted on which animals we want to adopt. We want a hedgehog, year four have a donkey, year two have a fox. Year three, reception and nursery still need to decide."**

It is evident from meeting with the school council that the children at Dinnington First School are given the freedom to develop their own ideas and as a result of this they make changes to school life to meet their needs.

It was highlighted in last years report that it would be encouraging to see how the school council incorporates all the children's ideas to help improve the school environment. This has certainly occurred with the changes that the school council has put in place, including class councils and idea sheets. It is evident that Dinnington First School is supporting children and young people become actively involved in real decision making, with a real budget, giving them a true voice in matters that affect their lives

The young people involved in this report agree with the content and recommendations made. It is on their behalf that I would like to recommend that Dinnington First School continue to be an Investing in Children member.

**Kim Kyle**  
**Investing in Children**  
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