



Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

Sacred Heart Primary School

This is the fourth Investing in Children evaluation for Sacred Heart Primary. Each time I visit I am always excited to see the new developments that have taken place and the changes that have been made to the school. As always when I visit Sacred Heart Primary the children and Mr. Foster met me in reception. However my meeting with Mr. Foster was brief and the children took me to the meeting room and facilitated our meeting.

On the 17th of September I met with last years school council. Liam – the Chair, Thomas – Vice Chair, Katie – the Treasurer, and Rebecca – the Secretary. All of who came back to Sacred Heart from their respective new schools to tell me about last years achievements for the school council alongside Harry, John, Niamh, Madeline, Daniel, Erin, Jack, Keiran, Louise, Reuben, and Laura.

Outstanding issues from last years evaluation:-

- **Uniform** – Can girls wear trousers?
This issue was put on the agenda and the school council did some research to find out how the children felt about girls wearing trousers. It was decided that girls should have the option.
Action: **School policy has been changed.**
- **The New Logo's**
Action: These are now up on the walls as you come into school and the children's centre.

Confirmed evidence of dialogue and change was provided by all of the children and everyone joined in the discussion about the activities of the previous school year.

Liam started the discussions with the new **Adventure Playground**, the old one has been replaced due to wear and tear.

Fundraising – as ever the children and parents have been busy fundraising for other countries, other children and themselves. The children are very active in *choosing* who they raise money for and how they do it. Here are just some examples the children shared with me.

- ❖ Fairtrade Display – working alongside Sister Lucina (?) the school council helped to organise a “big sale” in the hall. The children worked behind the stalls selling.
- ❖ Cafod – The children posted a Christmas Card in a post box and also invited to send a donation to Cafod.
In total the children collected £100.00 and paid for, a gardeners kit, a latrine, a couple of goats and 5 educational kits to send to a developing country.
- ❖ The NSPCC
- ❖ The British Legion – Poppy Appeal

The children showed me their ‘wall’ in the library. To show where the children have spent their money they have created a huge display. Included in the display were examples of the toys that were available to buy in their sale.

On the window the children had drawn a map of the world coloured in green. Daniel also told me that they sold “*chocolates and toys*” that people made for the fair.

Re-cycling – Daniel also told me that in school they encourage re-cycling to help with the environment. The children bring in their Christmas cards etc.

Keiran also told me that being on the school council gives them lots of opportunities to do other things. The children are asked to do things such as:

- ❖ Singing to old people. The group told me that they sang as a school council and also the choir went out to sing.
- ❖ Sang at Dobbies and the Grainger Market at Christmas.
- ❖ As a group they meet with education people.
- ❖ Got involved in Ofsted, including interviewing, talking about school council etc.
- ❖ Assembly – The school council decided that they want to do assembly to share with the whole school “*the things we have been doing*” said Katie.

Daniel also said that throughout the year they always think about “*what we can do for the world*”

Trips – The children also told me about the trips that they go on each year. The infants chose the seaside and the factory (**toy museum in Tynemouth**).

Thomas told me year 6 went to Lightwater Valley and year 5 went to Herrington Burn.

Voting – the children still vote for their school council member, the group were keen to point out that it does mean everyone has a vote. Year 6 also continue to vote for the head boy and head girl as well as 2 deputy's.

The old school council left just one issue on the table for the new school council and that was an idea for a ‘passport.’ Almost like an identity book for each child. This was just an idea last year and the group have left it at that.

As usual I gave everyone the opportunity to have their say to include in my report:-

Liam said, “It’s great, we all trust each other. The School Council is about working together and being a team. We start an idea together and we finish it.”
He also added that “One school council is the best and that is Sacred Heart.”

Daniel said “I think this school is a kind school and we don’t be nasty to each other.”

Rebecca told me that “we don’t just care about the school we care about the whole world.”

Niamh said “if we do something nasty to each other we say sorry.”

Harry told me “It’s a great school.”

Katie – “We try to help people all over the world so they get to be just as lucky as us.”

John – “If any children have any problems they can tell Mr. Foster. It’s a great school we get to help each other.”

Daniel also said “We have to be caring and help people that get hurt.”

Jack “it’s a glorious school.”

Kieran said “it’s the best school ever.”

Louise told me about how some of the children in year 2 painted the windows in the school, with animals in the classrooms and countries in the library.

Laura said that “all the staff in the school help us if we need help.”

Thomas told me the school is “phenomenal, everyone gets listened too.”

The children also reminded me that they now have two minibuses and they all had a chance to design what would be on the bus as well as choosing what bits went into the minibus. As we went back into school from the Children’s Centre, the children showed me one of the buses and the parking space for number 2.

The school council plays an important role at Sacred Heart. Once elected the children discuss and debate issues that are important to them, issues that are brought to them,

and requests that are made of them. The children are very confident with their presentations and understand the impact they have on the school.

I think from the evaluation I have written it can clearly be seen that children have had an impact on what happens in school and that they are very proud of their school too. I asked them if they thought Sacred Heart Primary should remain an Investing in Children member based on this evaluation and all of the children said '**YES.**'

Therefore with the agreement of the **School Council 2006-2007**, we would like to recommend that Sacred Heart Primary remains an Investing in Children member.

Well done again!

Helen Mulhearn
Investing in Children
December 2007