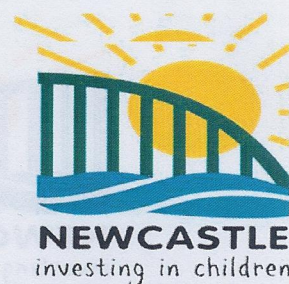


Membership Re-valuation



Date:	9 th September 2014
Project Name:	Beech Hill Primary School
Project Location:	Linhope Road West Denton Newcastle upon Tyne NE5 2LW
Contact Name:	Julie Patterson/Fiona Donaldson
Contact telephone number:	0191 2678113
Email:	admin@beechhill.newcastle.sch.uk
Assessor:	Gill Edgar
Summary of Evaluation:	Beech Hill School has continued to demonstrate evidence of dialogue with its students that resulted in their views and opinions influencing change within the school. The School Council feel that Beech Hill School should be given the Investing in Children Award for another year.
Sector	Primary School
Ages	3-11
Ward	Denton



Evaluation for Investing in Children Membership

Beech Hill Primary School

Background

Beech Hill Primary School is situated in West Denton in the Outer West of Newcastle upon Tyne. It opened in September 2002 following the closure and transformation of Linhope First School.

Evidence of Dialogue & Change

Due to school trips and other activities I was not able to meet with the school council as one group. Instead I met with the councilors from KS 1 and 2 on my initial visit and the KS 3 and 4 councilors at a follow up visit. Across these two groups I met with Josh, Maryam, Amber, Billy, Sophie, Lenny, Layla, Lucky, Katie, Dylan, Lucy, John, Summer, Reagan, Kaitlyn, Harvey, Libby, Dylan, Joseph, Sharniejay, Ellie, Jack, Chloe, Leon, Spencer and Mckenzie. Both groups had things to tell me about how the children's views influenced and changed things at their school.

Choosing School Councilor's, House Captains and the Head Boy and Girl.

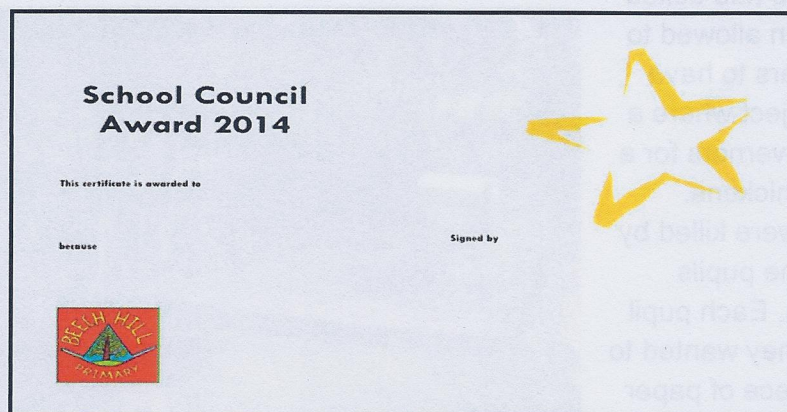
The children told me that the members of the school council, House Captains and Head Boy and Girl are chosen by the pupils at the school. Pupils interested in these roles have to make a written application. Everyone who applies will then be considered for the role by all the pupils at Beech Hill. The whole school then votes by closing their eyes and putting their hand up for the person they think should get the role. The person with the most votes gets the role.

Supporting Peers

Some of the children from KS 1 and 2 that I spoke to told me how as school councilors a key role was to support their peers. Katie said '**people pass on if people are picking on them and we tell the teachers so they can do something about it**'. The children reported that they felt that teachers listened when they told them about people experiencing problems and that they did something about it.

Awards for Good Behavior

The children told me that in every week in each class the teacher nominates children for a good behavior award. Sharnie told me that the two school councilors in each class discuss the children the teacher suggests and decide between themselves who gets the award.



Residential Trips

The children told me that the Y6 children had got to choose where they went for their annual residential this year – they choose Robins Wood from the selection offered. The children also got to choose who they shared a room with. They did this by writing down three friends names on piece of paper who they would have liked to be in a room with. This meant that everyone shared with at least one person they knew.

Also, as there was a bigger budget for residential this year, the school gave the children options as to how it could be spent. Each class voted and it was decided years 4 and 5 would go on a short residential.

Attendance Track

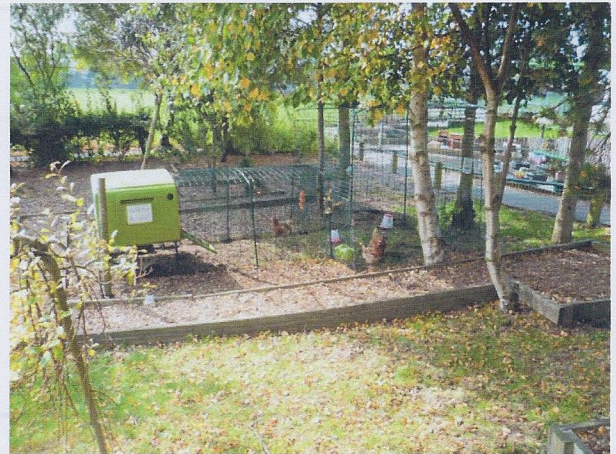
Each class room has an attendance track and the children are awarded points (1-6 points) for their level of attendance. The class with the best attendance each term gets to choose a treat. This can be things like a trip to the park, a DVD or pizza.



Some of the council members had been in a class that won the attendance award. Each class had had a pizza and DVD afternoon for their treat. However, when asked, the children said that they could have chosen something else if they wanted to. The children said that the whole class votes by putting their hands up for the treats suggested and the one with the most votes is the one that the whole class gets.

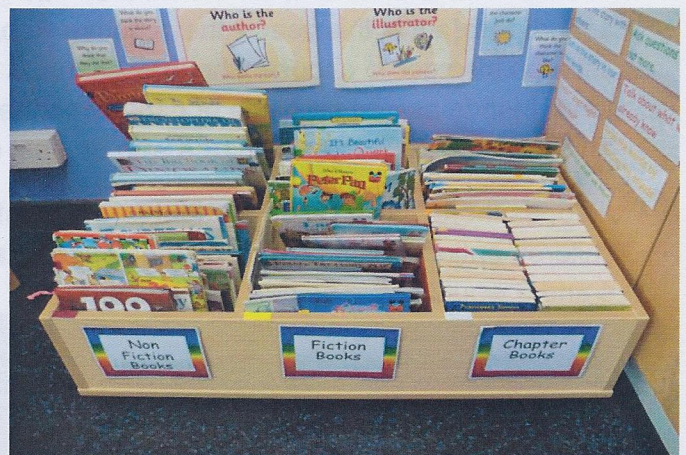
School Pet

Spencer stated that the pupils had asked for a school pet and had been allowed to choose chickens. This appears to have come about from a class project where a particular class asked the governors for a pet and the school choose chickens. When the original chickens were killed by a fox, they were replaced. The pupils helped to name the chickens. Each pupil wrote a name and whether they wanted to be a chicken monitor on a piece of paper and a teacher chose the best names. Sharnie is a chicken monitor and it's her job to make sure people don't do things like poke the chickens.



New Books

Kaitlyn told me that when the book fair had been to the school each class had been given a budget to buy new books with. There had been a budget of around £200 per class. The children on the school council told me how their classes had chosen the books. Some could pick any books they wanted from the books on display at the book fair and some picked books around themes suggested by the teacher. Kaitlyn told me that some of the children from her class had gone to the ITC Suite to research the books the class wanted on the computer. The school councilors felt that everyone had been able to pick at least one book that they wanted to have in their class.



Sports Day

Every year each class gets to make up an event for sports day. Once each class has thought up their event, each class in the school tries out each event. The school then votes for the one they think is the best. The event that wins is then part of the next sports day. This year it was 'Under and Over with water balloons' – the balloon burst on Jack and he got very wet!

After School Clubs

The children have a say in the after school clubs that run at the school. Ideas for after school clubs are thought up through class discussions. Each class has a list of ideas and each class votes by putting their hand up for the ideas for clubs that they like the best. The ideas with the most votes are then put forward and the staff work out which groups can go ahead (this is based on things like whether there are staff members that are able and available to run the clubs suggested). The students whose ideas are chosen get to put their names first to take part in the club.

Playground Equipment



When they had the chance to choose new playground equipment the children told me that the pupils had a selection of equipment that they could choose from. They decided that they wanted exercise equipment and skipping ropes and they got them.

Swimming Lessons

When consulted as part of a 'You Decide' project about what leisure facilities they wanted in their area, Year 4 pupils had asked for a swimming pool. This idea was not taken forward and sadly the school was not able to accommodate this request either. However they have been able to arrange for Year 4 pupils to have swimming lessons. As a result of this, pupils from the school have gone on to take part in competitions, like Mckenzie who won a gold medal.

Recommendations

Perhaps the school councilors could use the red idea books mentioned in the last liC report as a way of recording ideas about changes that they have and that other pupils suggest to them.

Conclusion

Beech Hill Primary School has continued to demonstrate evidence of dialogue with their students that have resulted in their views and opinions influencing change within the school. The School Council members who reviewed this report all agreed that they felt that Beech Hill School should be given the Investing in Children award for another year.

Gill Edgar
Project Officer
On Behalf of Investing in Children
September 2014