

Governor Visit to Observe School Council Meeting – 5th May 2017

Governors: Maria Button and Tracey Locke

The School Council has been in place since September 2016 and each year from Year 1 up has two representatives. All years were represented at this meeting with the exception of Year 3 and 4 who were attending a poetry festival in St Neots. The meeting was led by Laura Freeman who facilitated the process with a light touch and asked the children questions to keep things moving.

Overall impressions

The children were confident, enthusiastic and articulate and by the conclusion of the meeting every child had contributed to the conversation. They were clear about the purpose of the council and seemed to really enjoy being part of the group and proud of what they had achieved during the year.

Specific issues

Making the council more visible

Laura Freeman told the Council she was disappointed that the Easter Egg Competition hadn't been better supported. She explained that Mrs Hawkes had prepared a questionnaire for issue to all children to seek their views about what could improve in the school. Completion of the questionnaire would be mandatory and it would be the job of the Council to explain to their teacher and classmates what was required. We asked how they would achieve this. There was a good discussion which culminated in an agreement to seek approval to talk to the whole school at assembly the following week. All members of the council said they would stand at the front and those who felt confident enough, over 50%, would speak. Laura F said she would prepare some speaking notes for them to use.

The children said they would like badges or a way to be identified as being a council member.

Much excitement was created by the suggestion that they may be able to assist with a taste test of the new caterers menu with Mrs Hawkes!

Ways to improve lunchtime:

- Stop hurting people signs;
- An area just for football;
- Quiet areas for different year groups;

There was some discussion about the first point and everyone agreed that if this happened to them or they saw it happening to anyone else then an adult needed to be told straight away. One child suggested the installation of cameras. The children said that they regularly talked about lunchtime and would like to help to improve it.

Things about which the Council are proud:

- The better/worse exercise;
- Random Acts of Kindness Event.

Other improvements that could be made:

- A year 6 space which is quiet where the older children can draw and read;
- New books;
- The pen license for excellence in handwriting to be extended to Year 2;
- More film nights;
- A rota to be introduced for football and small pitches to be marked out on the new playground;
- New games to be introduced;
- New playground equipment – something else to go with the bus and boat

Actions for Governors:

Improvement ideas to be shared;

- Possibility to open the side field and create a football free zone;
- Involve children in decision making of any new field equipment;
- A small budget to purchase some play equipment that they have chosen;
- Follow up with Laura if the questionnaire reveals any other issues from the children's perspective. Would the council like to present their findings to the governors so that they can see that the 'pupil voice' is important to us?

Actions following governing body meeting

- Some pupils from the School Council will be invited to a Governing Body meeting during 2017/18 to present their ideas.