

Investing in Children Membership Award™ Evaluation.



Lanchester Endowed Parochial Primary School

Introduction



Lanchester Endowed Parochial Primary School is situated in Lanchester, County Durham. It is a larger than average Primary School, with just under 400 children with a range of abilities and learning styles. Lanchester E.P's school motto is:

'One team, one aim, many goals.'

In my visit to Lanchester E.P, it was vital that there was no information missed when talking to the young people, as a placement student, currently working closely with Investing in Children, I was supported by Chris Affleck, Project Worker to compile the report. I met with several children with a range of ages compile this evaluation; Aiden, Samantha, Ewan, Amy, Zoe, Ellie, Cieran, Leo, Rosanna, Anya, Caitlin, Joshua, Kate, Alancay, Shane, Paddy, Oliver, Zach, Harith, Maddie, Thomas and Eden. All of the children are members of the school council of their respective year groups, as well as other groups, such as the 'Digital Leaders'. They work with the teaching staff at Lanchester E.P to help identify issues to make the school a more inclusive and rewarding place to learn.

Evidence of Dialogue and Change

School Council

The school council is made up of two students, a boy and a girl from each class between years 1 to 6, and generally meet every two weeks on a Monday afternoon. The council is elected by each class and is not reserved to one term, with some students being on the council for more than one school year. The school council have an active voice at Lanchester E.P. hosting Assemblies to talk to the other children about what charities the school chooses to support, as well as ideas they have had about new toys for the playground. They also do regularly present PowerPoint presentations on what they have been up to.

Maddie told me: ***"Mr. Mordue arranges the assembly and we have our say!"***.

The school council is included in a lot of decisions in and around the school, most being decided by democracy, teaching the children these values and the importance of voting. The children gave me several examples of this, as they have the opportunity to choose how the school is decorated:

“A couple of weeks ago, we decided what colour the girl’s toilets were going to be.”

They also were asked to vote on the climbing frames for the playground and what equipment and toys they want for the MUGA,

“We talk about what toys we want like the climbing frame outside and we had a vote!”

The school council also have the opportunity to have a say about what staff are employed by the school. As the current Deputy Head is leaving at the end of the academic year, the children are asked to be a part of the interview process;

“We get to decide what type of Deputy Head we would like!”

Also, ***“We take them around the school and tell them what it’s like!”***

The children enjoy being a part of this process.

Tuck Shop

Lanchester E.P offer a healthy, Fairtrade, tuck shop called ‘Snack Attack’, open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for pupils to access healthy snacks at break times. The school council asks pupils what they would like as snacks and then hold a meeting to decide what they want to offer. All students who are a part of the tuck shop have a rota and different job roles that they are responsible for.

“We all have different jobs, Amy, Paddy and Kate order the food from the office.”

Other job roles that are available for the pupils are Marketing, Directors and Storage Managers.

“We all have our different days to do it. There’s a timetable. We decided it should be like that. It’s been like that since ages ago but we decided it should stay like that.”



Snacks available at break times are: spicy noodles, popcorn, pears, raisins and humzingers amongst others. Paddy told me that they are also planning on introducing a range of drinks:

“Like now it’s getting warmer we want drinks so we will have a vote and decide what drinks we want, like sugar free milkshakes!”

On the return visit to the school so the young people could check this report, the school council were in the middle of their meeting where Mr Mordue was giving the young people an update on the delivery that had just arrived with the new items that the group had ordered. Mr Mordue confirmed which Tuck Shop items had been the most popular and asked the children to suggest anything else that they would like to add to what was currently on offer.

Charity

The school’s main charity they sponsor is Cancer Research UK. The children had an opportunity to vote for what charity they wanted to fundraise for, in the past they have chosen to sponsor charities such as Help for Heroes and RSPCA.

“We voted to raise money for cancer research.”

The children also have a say in how the money is raised,

“The class comes up with ideas then it comes to school council to vote and it then goes to the head teacher to see if it’s suitable.”

In the past the children have chosen on events such as Wacky Hair Day and a Bake-a-thon. The children are in the process of deciding this year’s fundraising event, which they are all looking forward to!

Opportunities for Children’s Involvement

The children have Celebration Assemblies on a Friday which all the children really enjoy.

“We have an assembly on a Friday that inspires some people.”

It gives the opportunity for pupils who have excelled in any way that week to be recognised for their achievements and receive a certificate. Rewards can also be achieved by the class as a whole; you can receive house points. Year 6 students are House Captains and Vice Captains and they are responsible for collecting the points. The school has a weekly newsletter available online for all children, parents and carers to access. The children are sometimes asked to contribute to the Newsletter based on what projects or clubs they are a part of.

“Sometimes if you’re in a club you get to write a sentence or paragraph for the newsletter about the club.”

Additionally if the young people take part in an overnight trip or are a part of the Erasmus Project then they would be asked to contribute about their experiences.

Digital Leaders

Children have the opportunity to become Digital Leaders at Lanchester E.P. Digital Leaders are asked to submit an application, to which they are then selected by the teaching staff and get the chance to try out new technology to contribute to the children's learning.

“We try new technology; we try apps to see if we think they would be good to help us learn!”

The Digital Leaders travelled to London to the Bett Show and presented their findings back to the school.



Playground Buddies

In Year 5 pupils can apply to become Playground Buddies, after successfully completing training, including how to become a buddy and learning new games, the children are then put on a rota to assist with the staff at playtimes to make sure that everyone has someone to play with. The children have a rainbow bench situated in the playground if they choose to use it.

“If buddies see someone say on a buddy bench they would go and play with them”.

The buddies are easily recognisable as they wear a yellow cap and jacket so the pupils know who the buddies are that day. Ewan told me that the Year 6 equivalent are called:

“Mediators, to help people who are arguing or falling out, they help them sort it out.”

After School Clubs

Lanchester E.P offers a selection of after school clubs to cater to all the young people's tastes, such as, ***“Art, football, table tennis, cricket and SATs boosters for the Year 6's.”***

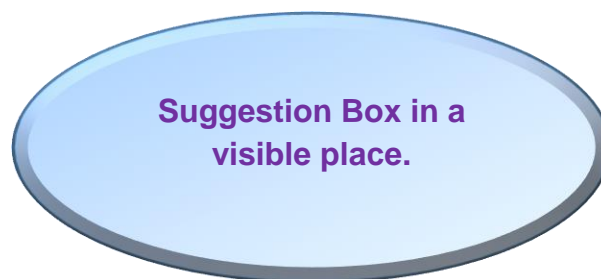
The children also told me that ***“There is a special after school club for parents who work late.”***

These clubs are not mandatory, but most children do use the facilities to further their skills and development.



Recommendations

Have a suggestion box available in a visible place the children can use in case they aren't confident talking to a teacher or school council member. These can then be discussed at future council meetings.



Conclusion

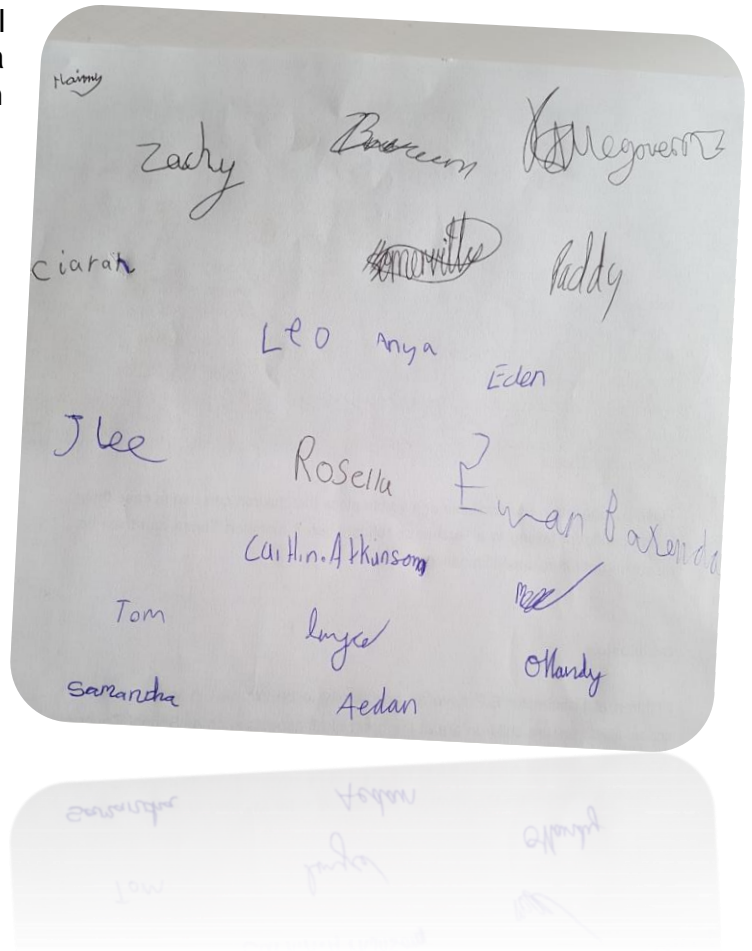
Children at Lanchester E.P Primary School have an opportunity to be involved in various parts of school life to ensure children are at the heart of all aspects such as School Council, Buddies, and Digital Leaders, as well as having a say in various groups in school. There are many examples of children being involved in conversations and changes happening because of this, in large community projects, as well as smaller school based work, and therefore I would like to recommend

that Lanchester Endowed Parochial Primary School continues to be a valued member of the Investing in Children Membership Award™ Scheme.

This report has been endorsed by children and young people from the Student Council:

Congratulations!

**Michael Young,
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Supported by Chris Affleck,
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Investing in Children CIC
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