

Pupil Council Report 2019-2020



“Wirk tagidder wi ean annider”

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The Brae Secondary Pupil Council

We are the Pupil Council for Brae High School, we are the voice for all young people in the school.

We champion the issues they face and encourage them to come to us for anything they need, we are an open and inclusive organisation who don't discriminate against anyone.

Last year we did a survey to see what the biggest issues were facing the school,

They were:

- No recycling bins provided in the school
- Mental health needs supported by groups and to have a safe lunchtime space
- Look at teaching more Life Skills such as first aid and sign language
- Canteen options in secondary – No hot food, cash handling and tokens, pupils leaving the school to buy less healthy options

Actions started:

- Contacted local councillor Ryan Thompson who assured us the council were working on recycling bins for all Shetland Schools
- Spoke to the head of the school canteen and more options and changes started to happen.

Benefits of being in the PC:

- Looks good on CV.
- Work with senior management to make a change.
- You have your voice heard.
- You can do award.
- Make a change.
- Make the school a better place.

Background and aim and workshop plan

We are undertaking our participatory democracy award –

(The Participative Democracy Certificate (PDC) acknowledges and develops communication, decision-making and negotiation skills in the context of democratic engagement.

Based on decision-making in groups, it's worth two credits at SCQF Level 5 (equivalent to a National 5 or SVQ 2). Each credit is based on 10 hours of learning activity.)

We recently done part 1 which saw us taking part in a full days training with pupil councils from across Shetland to focus on what we wanted to get out of the award and what we wanted to do as a pupil council.

Part 2 is all about doing research to find out what they biggest issues young people are facing at school are.

Part 3 is about taking action and see what we can do to help the issues.

In doing this we want to increase youth participation and engagement, to follow the aims of the school improvement plan and to get an insight of the issues young people at school face so we can look to improving them by putting them first, we also want to raise the profile of the Pupil within the school, especially leading in to the new school year so we can make more changes and be heard.

To gain part 2 we used a tool called mentimeter which is an interactive website that allows participants to actively engage on their mobiles, we chose to do a quiz with 10 questions that students could put their thoughts and opinions into these were.

1. What's the biggest issue you're facing in school?
2. Do you feel bullying is a big issue at BHS? Why?
3. Do you feel cared and looked after in the Brae?
4. What can we do to help mental health?
5. What ways can we make the school more eco-friendly?
6. How can we make the LGBT+ community more represented?
7. Do you think teacher pupil relationships are strong and why? Why not?
8. Do you think more life skills should be built into the curriculum? Why? And what ones?
9. Do you think we have a strong school spirit? If yes why? If no how can we improve?
10. What is the school doing well?

Unfortunately due to Covid 19, our school never managed to hold the assembly to get these results as planned. We have as a pupil council put in our own answers on mentimetre and have replied based on our year group's discussions and these views hopefully represent our schools views.

From this across each year group these were the biggest issues:



Looking at this we will discuss at our next meeting what work is already being done in the school surrounding each issue and what issue we can take forward to do work around.

This meeting never happened due to Covid 19 lockdown. There were many responses around providing safer spaces at break times and providing support groups for those with ill mental health.