



Scalloway Primary School

PUPIL VOICE POLICY

APRIL 2016



Pupil Voice



Scalloway Primary School is a school at the heart of its community and the community is at the heart of the school.

The values of our traditional Shetland community are also the values our school promotes. This is a community that values resilience, diversity, citizenship, identity and sustainability, and looks to the school to equip young people with these qualities. Pupil voice enables our young people to become active participants in local, regional, national and international issues.

The skills and qualities they develop at this stage in their education will allow them to continue the growth of our successful community.

"Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously." (Article 12 -Right to be heard: UN Convention of the Rights of the Child.)

Community-based activities help to build the confidence and motivation of young people and allow them to develop skills for learning, life and work, preparing them for future roles in society. (Education Scotland)

"Having opportunities and encouragement to play active and responsible roles in their schools and communities and, where necessary, having appropriate guidance and supervision and being involved in decisions that affect them." (Shanarri Wheel (Responsible))

"Young people should play an active, conscious and democratic role in their community." (www.smartschoolcouncils.org.uk)

Evidence of Pupil Voice

- In Everyday teaching and learning

Pupil voice is intergrated in to our everyday learning and teaching practices. For example, children are given opportunities to help develop success criteria for lessons and to evaluate their learning at the end. When starting a new topic, the class will be asked what their key questions are that need to be answered during the term. There is always consultation about general class activities. Cooperative learning techniques gives many opportunities to hear the pupils' thoughts and ideas and gives children the chance to lead and organise their own learning.

- Pupil Voice Class Meetings

Each class has 2 Pupil Voice meetings per term (one in Terms 1 and 2). The first meeting is held in Weeks 1 or 2. All classes are asked the same question which comes from the School Improvement Plan. Classes will record their feedback in stage appropriate ways.

Classes choose 2 or 3 representatives to give feedback on their class' thoughts at an Assembly in Weeks 3 or 4. The HT will keep a note of these.

This process is then repeated midway through the term but this time it is a more general question which may be affecting the school at the time, eg Burwick Beach Redd up, ideas for End of term winning House Team treat etc. Representatives will again feedback at Assembly.

At the end of each term the HT gives feedback to all pupils at their Assemblies on what staff and pupils have done together to work on the questions posed.

At the start of each session, every new intake of children are introduced to the idea of Pupil Voice through a special Assembly at the beginning of the year.

- Pupil Committees

Groups of children are encouraged to volunteer during the session to help organise key events and activities. These can be groups from a mixed age range. Events will vary from year to year but can include things like, The Salvation Army Food Bank, Christmas Hampers, Book Sale, Spring Fair and many other enterprising ideas.

- Pupil Voice Notice Board

The Pupil Voice Notice Board is a good way of keeping the children informed about what the key questions are and what has happened as a result of their feedback. Within Pupil Voice the school will continue to promote the four capacities of a Curriculum for Excellence and maintain our eco flag and environmental work. Our Pupil Voice Notice Board reflects all of these things.