

Primary Pupil Council

November 2001



SCHOOL → **Spittal Primary School, South Lanarkshire**

FOCUS → **Is there change? How the pupil council has developed.**

What initiatives are in place to encourage active pupil participation in decision-making and in the promotion of a more positive approach to discipline?

- The Pupil Council
- Peer counselling which is linked to behaviour and offered in two ways: firstly by the Pupil Council to pupils who have received detention and secondly through the Bully Advice Centre
- The Golden bench where pupils go if they have no-one to play with and will be spotted by the monitors
- The P7 Common Room where projects such as the school magazine can be worked on
- The senior sweatshirt with a badge that reads 'Spittal School Senior' and is a different colour – this can be easily spotted by younger children and is worn very proudly by P7

How are these initiatives being monitored and evaluated?

- The Pupil Council meets weekly
- The Pupil Council and the Head Teacher report weekly to the whole school at assembly
- Pupils are consulted termly through a questionnaire from the Pupil Council
- Suggestion boxes are opened and discussed weekly

CONTACT INFORMATION

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What are some of the biggest challenges faced by teachers and young people in implementing these initiatives?

The time restraints on teaching staff and the demands of the curriculum

What worked well?

Initiatives which either

- a. involved children in discussion,
- b. came from the children or
- c. involved or made a change to children's life in the school

What did not work & lessons learned?

Taking on too many ventures at any one time. The Pupil Council are now supported in developing their decision making and planning skills so that they can plan future initiatives with realistic deadlines.

Future plans?

A citizenship project with the local community and involving the MSP, a local councillor, the police, and the associate secondary school as partners.

Note

Spittal Primary School was the subject of an Ethos Network Case Study No. 21 'Pupil Participation: the classroom'. Copies are available from the Ethos Network on 0131 651 6551.