

Pupil voice – which ways can our pupils make their voices count?

What is a School Council?

A school council is a group of pupils elected by their fellow pupils to represent their opinions and raise issues with the head teacher and governors in the school.

The school council can also take forward projects on behalf of the pupils and be involved in planning and things like the School Development Plan, governing body meetings and even interviewing new staff.

At Waverley Abbey Junior School, the school council:

- Represents all pupils (a council member and deputy are voted in by each class)
- Listens to all pupils and allows them to communicate their views
- Provides feedback to pupils about what happened about their views
- Make things happen – or explain why they can't!

What is Peer Mediation?

Peer Mediation is a voluntary process, whereby trained mediators work in pairs to help resolve the minor conflicts of their peers.

Mediation uses a restorative approach, which means the pupils find out what happened, the thoughts and feelings behind the behaviour and what both parties feel is needed to put things right. The support is underpinned by restorative values, and links with our school values. It is not about removing control from staff/ adults, it's about believing in the children and their ability to resolve their own conflicts when empowered to do so – it's amazing just how capable young children can be.

Pupils can choose to go to Peer Mediators rather than school staff or alongside staff. This enables children to learn how to resolve their own conflicts. Whilst the impact is not easy to measure, what we have seen is fewer incidents, small problems are more easily resolved and happy children!

What is Eco Council?

Eco Council is a group of pupils who meet each month to discuss eco friendly and environmental issues within school which prepares children to live their future lives with consideration for global issues. There is one eco councillor from each class (and more can join if they have a passion for protecting the environment).

Why do we have an Eco Council?

- To ensure our school is eco-friendly and prepares pupils to live with reflection of the environment.
- To make sure each class has a platform to voice their opinions.
- To discuss and raise issues related to the environment.

What is Global Schools link – Malawi?

As a school community we want to raise awareness of the extreme inequalities across our globe and perhaps more importantly, the steps we can take to address these. Children in both communities have enjoyed sharing their lives through live links and have found out about how life is lived in another part of the world. Pupils have been learning about examples of people who faced adversity and overcame this to be courageous advocates for change.

We are part of the Global Schools link because it gives us a practical way of living out our school value of hope and compassion. Our world is increasingly connected and our hope is for our community to grow as responsible global citizens who care about issues such as the environment and inequality.

What are sports leaders?

This is based on the level 1 qualification in sports leadership. Although this is aimed at children who are 12+, many of the elements can be taken on by Year 6 pupils. It also links with the 'School Games' award in which Waverley hold the platinum award. This is the highest accolade and highlights our commitment to supporting all children to achieve in and enjoy sport and promotes a healthy lifestyle.

Young people undertaking a qualification in Sports Leadership will learn and demonstrate important life skills such as effective communication and organisation whilst learning to lead basic physical activities to younger people, their peers, and within the community.

The courses involve both guided & peer-to-peer learning and supervised leadership to ensure that learners have all the skills they need to lead basic physical activities to other people.

What is a junior librarian?

Organising pupils to help with the library not only ensures the smooth day-to-day running of the library, but also helps develop a sense of responsibility, achievement and self-esteem in the children.

Duties

- To help in the library at set times agreed with the Year leads
- To shelve fiction books in A-Z order
- To shelve non-fiction books in subject order
- To help with library displays
- To help issue and return resources
- To help other pupils find what they are looking for

Junior librarians are

- Reliable
- Hardworking
- Honest
- Cheerful
- Sensible
- Enthusiastic

Junior librarians also

- Enjoy working with computers
- Are willing to help others
- Have an interest in books
- Enjoy thinking on their feet
- Have good communication skills