

***Ponsbourne St. Marys C of E Primary School,
Hertfordshire***

(Daniella's and Josh's speech)

We want to find out if children have a voice in our school

What do we want to find out about?

- We feel that only some children speak up and have a voice and we want to know why.
- We want to know if teachers ask children what they want to learn and how they learn best and if they know how they're doing in their work.
- We want to know if children feel they are listened to in our school.

What information do we need to find out?

- Information from questionnaires given to all children.
- Information from interviews with teachers.
- Information from interviews with pupils from a cross-selection of children in the school (3 boys, 3 girls from Y6, Y4 and Y2).

Analysing the information

- Work out the percentages and patterns from the children's answers to the questionnaires.
- Look for good ideas in the pupil's answers to open ended questions in the questionnaires.
- Compare teacher's answers in interview and see if they are different from pupil's answers in the interviews.
- Find out ways of improving pupil voice.

Findings from pupils

- Most children are confident about speaking out in class but for the ones that aren't we will have to find more ways to help them.
- It is confident children that speak up.
- If you speak up, you do better in school.
- Most children think that their teacher does give them the chance to talk about their work and about what they want to learn and about how they learn, but not all the time.
- Only a fifth of children think they know how well they are doing in their school work. We think we need to improve that.
- Most children get to talk about things in circle times and in the school council.
- Most children think that their teachers will listen to ways to improve things and change things if their ideas are not silly.
- 3 quarters of children think they are listened to always or at least sometimes in school.
- Most children think teachers want them to give them ideas.

What we need to do next:

- Ask teachers to encourage shy children to talk out loud and make sure that other children don't laugh at them.
- Make a meeting between a child and a teacher more often to make sure they are doing ok and they can say what they want because it is private.
- Make a new system to make sure pupils know how well they are doing in their work daily.
- Encourage children to use our school council to ask for ways to improve our school.
- Remind the children to use our school council to ask for ways to improve our school.
- Remind the children where the suggestion box for the school council is and use it.
- Encourage younger children to talk to their teacher about their own ideas about how to improve our school.

Findings from teachers

- The teachers all thought that they gave their pupils opportunities to have a say about their work, how they learn and how the school

can improve. They do it in different ways: smiley face system, discussion, resources, presenting work, school council, free choice in some lessons about what they want to research

- It seems teachers and most children agree on this.
- Teachers also think that the children who use their pupil voice are confident children. They think some children are scared of getting things wrong and children said they were scared of others laughing at them.
- Teachers thought the children did know how well they were doing at school. This is different to what the children said.
- Teachers said they would listen to their pupil's ideas and they did want pupils to tell them their ideas. This is the same as what the children said.

What they should do next:

- Teachers should encourage shy children and not allow others to laugh at them
- Teachers should tell children more how they are doing.
- Teachers should continue asking children for their ideas and remind them that they want to hear their ideas.