

# Pupil participation: the pupil voice

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT



SHARING LEARNING ACROSS THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP  
PEER PARTNERSHIP VALIDATED SCHOOL STRENGTH

*“A recent and very important addition to the school’s committees is the introduction of the learning ambassadors this year.”* **WAYNE LEEMING, HEADTEACHER**

## Intention

Melcombe Primary School has developed a range of committees for junior aged pupils, and this develops the pupil voice in the school. Committees work alongside the school council and prefect system. There are six vibrant and well-established groups:

- Eco Warriors encourage green issues and sustainable development as part of the life and ethos of the school;
- Fair Traders encourage the understanding of the importance of fairtrade on a micro and macro scale;
- Enterprisers encourage better financial capability and business understanding;
- International Ambassadors encourage international understanding and friendship through links with other countries and a love of modern foreign languages (MFL);
- Junior Road Safety Officers encourage the safe use of roads;
- Rights Respectors encourage pupils to understand their rights and responsibilities.



In addition, the school has also introduced a system of learning ambassadors. Pupils from this group work with the senior leadership team to advise on the curriculum and aspects of teaching and learning.

Questions are asked such as:

1. What were the best bits about the learning this half term?
2. What were the worst bits?
3. How do you currently feel about learning?

Learning ambassadors give their feedback to school about subjects as diverse as literacy, mathematics, topic and science. They also comment on how their work has been marked.

Pupils are proud to sit on this committee. The headteacher says that pupils’ views about teaching and learning are welcomed in the school.

*“Our school cares for us as individuals, listens to us when we have a point of view or when we want things to change.”*

## KEY STAGE 2 PUPIL

### Implementation

Each committee is led by a different member of staff. There is frequent discussion about how to further improve their designated work. This runs alongside the very practical activities that are managed by each group.

For example:

- Eco Warriors pick up rubbish and ensure that energy such as electric lighting is conserved in the school;
- Fair Traders sell fair trade such as geo bars and fruit in their tuckshop. They also highlight the importance of fair trade in assemblies;
- Enterprisers have raised money both for charities and the school. In addition, they have developed their maths skills;
- International Ambassadors have raised funds to support a child living in a South African township. They also organise an International Day where different foods from a wide range of countries are enjoyed.
- Junior Road Safety Officers have requested that engines are turned off outside school.

- Rights Respectors are currently supporting a foodbank and have worked on helping everyone to show respect for school property and the playground equipment.

The headteacher is proud of the learning ambassadors. Recent improvements, as a consequence of comment from the learning ambassadors include:

- everyone starting lessons quickly.

The chance to tell teachers about their learning and the quality of teaching they experience has been welcomed very much by pupils and teachers alike. Pupils say that the best thing about it is, “that no answer is right.”

The school council has also had a positive impact on improving the cleaning of toilets and the quality of school lunches.



*"This is an impressive community of eloquent, reflective and caring individuals who share excellent British values of tolerance and respect for others."* **LBHF PEER REVIEW REPORT 2018/19**

## Impact

Pupils have a wide choice of school committees to join. Representatives from the committees impressed everyone during the review, with their passionate and articulate explanations about their achievements. The roots of this confident and determined oracy lie within the curriculum.

There is a fundamental emphasis on the development of pupils' speaking and listening skills across the school that extends from pupils learning in lessons to their participation in wider school activities.

Developing pupils' independence in thought, the ability to articulate their own ideas, and take ownership of their world is part the development of British values. At Melcombe Primary School the belief that different views should be heard and understood underpins all that is done in the classroom and in the wider



school curriculum.

Developing pupils' involvement in worthwhile activities is also highlighted through the school website. This acts as another layer of participation for pupils and their families.

It means that, regardless of whether a pupil is actively working on a committee, all pupils and their families can access the information they need to be part of the school community. It is the leadership potential here that is important.

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