

Bradwell Village Middle School **Lunchtime Inquiry**

Who is involved? How many pupils?

There are two main members of staff who are involved in this inquiry, Kim Fraser and Gurpreet Sidhu. They have involved the pupils in the form of the School Council, which Gurpreet chairs; this is 12 pupils from all the ages within the school.

Where is the inquiry being promoted?

The inquiry is being promoted with all of the staff and with the pupils within the school, it is being mainly discussed in School Council meetings and this then means that these pupils take what is discussed back to their classroom to discuss with their peers.

What are the pupils doing?

Some pupils are compiling questionnaires, and others are completing those questionnaires. Some pupils are on a PSLN Sub-committee within the School's Council, and are compiling ideas for carrying out observations at lunchtimes. All pupils are able to suggest ideas about lunchtimes and how they feel about what has been trialled through their School Council representative, who then takes that back to the meeting.

How is this changing the teaching and learning relationships in classroom?

The pupils now feel that they have more ownership over their lunchtimes, because the ideas that they have been suggesting to their council representatives have been taken seriously and implemented, examples of this are that the pupils wanted to have hot school meals and a separate playground for ball games. There was a two week experiment with a separate playground for ball games. This experiment still needs to be evaluated fully but feedback via the School Council was generally positive. We now have hot school meals and this has meant that the teaching and learning relationships after lunch are greatly improved, there are fewer incidents to deal with, the children seem to be more focused and much more willing to work.

How is this changing the management and decision making processes in schools?

This is changing management and decision making processes within the school by allowing the pupils to come up with ideas, that these ideas are taken seriously and some of the ideas are implemented. Also members of staff are beginning to see that the pupils can

come up with sensible solutions that can solve issues that are a concern to both staff and pupils.

An example of a change

Playground experiment: *'the majority of Year 5's felt there were less arguments.'*

'It has been enjoyable to mix with other year groups.'

'There have been fewer medical injuries.'

Quotes from the School Council.

Our future plans

To compile a general questionnaire about lunchtimes, this will include questions about the playground experiment, how they feel about the hot school meals and how these are impacting on their lunchtimes. To ask the PSLN Sub-committee on the School Council to give us their ideas for lunchtime observations and then to carry out those observations. To ask all members of staff about the playground experiment and hot school meals and how that is impacting their learning and teaching in the afternoons. To visit schools within the PSLN network and carry out some observations of their lunchtimes, with the possibility of the PSLN Sub-committee from the School Council accompanying us and partaking in the observations.