

Pupil Voice

Our children are encouraged to share their ideas, knowing they will be heard. This is their school and they have a say. Having a voice and being heard are key areas of British Values which we, at Darlinghurst Academy, actively promote through our Junior Governor Team. The Junior Governors are a group of children from Key Stage 1 and 2 who work together to make the school a better place. Much like Parliament, they are democratically elected by their peers and play a vital role in listening to and representing the views of all children at the school. By meeting, sharing ideas and completing activities throughout the year, the Junior Governor Team fulfil their role as active citizens, listening to suggestions from other pupils about ways in which to improve the school. They then provide this vital feedback to the teaching staff and the Principal. Our children, make a difference!

Termly Reflections

Autumn 2022

The Junior Governors meet monthly to discuss the progress of projects, arising events and other matters. The Junior Governors have been monitoring their progress on projects through their display board. The board is updated weekly and allows the whole school community to see what is going on. Students are encouraged to talk to their class Junior Governor if they have any ideas or views they would like to share.



This academic year, the Junior Governors played a part in adapting our lunch menu. The Junior Governors collated data from their classes about their thoughts on the current lunch menu. In our first meeting, we discussed this data and feedback to the catering staff. As a result of this pupil feedback, there will be an updated menu launching after half term. Meat free Mondays are back on the menu for two out of the three weeks. Instead of the creamy chicken pasta there will be pizza and the pulled pork will be replaced with a sausage cowboy pie. The KS2 Junior Governors also got the pleasure of Wendy from the kitchen attending our meeting and discussing the actions she has made in response to pupil voice. Wendy also let us taste test a new flapjack recipe. It was delicious and got the approval of all of our Junior Governors! In addition, the Junior Governors discussed plans for a focus after half term.



Our children are active citizens and are aware their community action can make a difference. The pandemic taught us how incredibly important care and compassion can be and this became part of the Junior Governor's vision and actions. This academic year, the Junior Governors have continued to strengthen Darlinghurst's relationship with their local care home, Admiral Court. In September, our Junior Governors went to a trip to see an art gallery held by Admiral Court. Admiral Court were keen to invite us as they attended our Portico art gallery last summer. They hosted an Arts in Care Gallery with wonderful pieces created by their residents. As enthusiastic artists, our students took great interest in all the works of art but, particularly enjoyed exploring the sculptures and murals in their garden.



The Juniors Governors went on a trip to the local care home, Admiral Court, to drop off a beautiful 'Remembrance with the Queen' piece of art created by art club. We were able to go inside and interact with the residents, talk about remembrance and have a sing along. The residents were overjoyed with the art work and adored their time talking to the children. The Junior Governors were fantastic representatives of the school.



After October half term, our Junior Governors were already enthusiastically discussing what they could do for Admiral Court for Christmas. They spent time with their peers creating beautiful individual pieces that contributed towards a large strip of bunting, working like elves in Santa's workshop. In December, we completed the Christmas crafts bunting drop off. It was a lovely trip, bringing smiles to the faces of all the Admiral Court residents.

Spring 2022

During the Spring term, the Junior Governors have thrived, taking on roles and responsibilities around the academy. 'Play leaders' have been established within the KS1 playground. The Year 1 and 2 Junior Governors discussed having activities integrated into their lunchtimes. They addressed this with their classes and fed back ideas at the following meeting. The Junior Governors maturely discussed what would be achievable in the timeframe they had set themselves. The final ideas were then relayed to SLT and now activities have been integrated into lunchtime play. The Year 1s and 2s have taken ownership in setting up and tidying away the resources with 'play leaders' established to oversee this.



Within our first Spring KS2 meeting, the Junior Governors discussed extracurricular activities. Choir became a focus as the KS2 Junior Governors mentioned their peers expressing an interest in attending but, were unavailable for the current day. With the teacher leading choir's permission, the Junior Governors were tasked with carrying out a democratic vote to find the most convenient days for attending choir. This was a great opportunity for the Junior Governors to practise public speaking and collect data on pupil voice. They also promoted the South East Essex Schools' Music Association annual festival for Key Stage 2 held in June at the Cliff's Pavilion. The result was choir moving to after school on a Friday.



Throughout this term, the Junior Governors have eagerly anticipated an opportunity to visit and put a smile on the faces of the residents of Admiral Court. They thoughtfully decided on and arranged for a communal Easter crafted wreath and an Easter chick postcard for each resident. These were hand delivered by 12 of our Junior Governors. The residents who greeted us were overjoyed with the generous gifts and thanked the children for their efforts.



Summer 2022

During the Summer term, the teacher facilitating the Junior Governors encouraged them to lead their own meetings. They independently elected someone to scribe, sensibly allowing everyone to contribute their ideas and discussing opinions on matters and resolutions or suggestions to put forward to the adults or put into action themselves where possible.



Also, the Junior Governors were tasked by our Principle, Mrs Nicholls, to feedback on the uniform. Mrs Nicholls listened to all the Junior Governors ideas and will be implementing new, gender-neutral uniform guidance as a result.

Throughout this term, we have also been working hard on a final craft project for Admiral Court. During one of our meetings, the Junior Governors thought up the idea of creating summer postcards for the residents at the care home. We worked hard producing summer seaside themed postcards. The residents were delighted when they received their summer crafts and thanked the children for all their hard work.

The Junior Governors have also contributed towards organising the Portico Trust Travelling Art Show. It was an exciting opportunity to understand how to curate an art show on a large scale with lots of collaborating schools. The Junior Governors supported the set up of the art show brilliantly and facilitated a visit from residents of Admiral Court. They showed the residents around the space and, whilst admiring the artwork, sparked up wonderful conversations about all manner of things, in turn, further strengthening our links with the local care home.