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## **International Pupil Council** **Meeting 9: Minutes**

Venue: Winifred Holtby School

Date: Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2012

### **1. Present:**

Mr P Browning (Chair & Secretary, Head at Stepney PS), Charlie & Lewis (Pearson PS), Zahaib & Kayleigh (Collingwood PS), Charlie & Samia (Thanet PS), Thomas & Amelia (Stepney PS), Adam & Abdul (Sutton Park PS), Elijah & Chloe (Chiltern PS), Alice, Tom & Ellie (Thoresby PS), James & Tom (Winifred Holtby)

### **2. Apologies:**

Dorchester PS

### **3. Introduction & Main Task**

The IPC welcomed pupils from Thoresby Primary School to their first meeting. Mr Browning introduced today's special meeting of the IPC with a brief collection of slides to give councillors a flavour and reminder of what life is like in Freetown. These were taken from his visit to the country in March 2010. He explained that following the work the IPC has done on waste management, there is now another project that their colleagues in Freetown would like them to help them with. Today's meeting had been arranged to be a two hour meeting to enable the IPC to work on this. The issue is that in Freetown schools, corporal punishment still exists. The schools involved in the global partnership are already trying to stop this. Mrs Macdonald, the head teacher at Collingwood PS and other heads and teachers have already undertaken work in training Sierra Leonian teachers in the skills of 'Restorative Practices' (RP). Mr Browning explained that it is now for the pupils to help out with this, starting with designing posters.

First, the IPC discussed the basic principles of RP. Mr Browning drew a graph to show how it is more effective to use RP than corporal punishment. In small groups, made up of pupils from different schools, ideas were written down on large sheets of paper. These included a range of great ideas from the councillors. Tom and James, from Winifred Holtby, described their work as pupil RP reps in sorting our conflicts at school amongst their peers.

Once ideas had been noted down and discussed, the groups went to the computers and began designing posters that will be sent to Sierra Leone. By the time they had finished, they had produced some quality work, which Mr Browning will now collate and organise.

#### **4. “A Year in the Life of...”**

After working on the RP task for the first one and a half hours, the councillors then took turns in showing their presentations on a year in the life of their respective schools. Some were not quite complete but everyone agreed that their friends had made a good job in compiling photos and information. Mr Browning asked councillors to finish their work in time for the next group of Sierra Leonian visitors (which hopefully will be on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2012). We will then be able to show these to the guests.

#### **5. Thanks**

The IPC extended their thanks to Anita from the Winifred Holtby staff and James and Tom for their brilliant and invaluable help this morning. It was truly a successful collaborative venture. Mr Browning also informed the IPC that Diana Johnson MP is going to meet with him in the next few weeks to discuss the work of the IPC. Mrs Johnson is on the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Sierra Leone.

#### **6. Next Meeting**

To be arranged to coincide with the visit of the Freetown teachers.