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## **International Pupil Council** **Meeting 10: Minutes**

Venue: Pearson Primary School

Date: Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013

### **1. Present:**

Mr P Browning (Chair & Secretary, Head at Stepney PS), Cody & Michael (Stepney Primary), Imaduddin & Katie (Pearson Primary), Natalie, Abdul & Shahin (Collingwood), Giousef & Katie (Chiltern Primary), Joshua & Lillie-May, Petra & Aaron (Thorseby Primary), Alex & Milly (Bellfield Primary) , Mrs K Hindson (Head at Pearson PS)

### **2. Apologies:**

### **3. Individual School Activities**

As we haven't had a meeting this academic year, Mr Browning welcomed all the new pupil councillors and explained what the IPC is all about. It had started a few years ago when a teacher from a school in Freetown had visited Stepney Primary School and heard about all the different councils that pupils in Hull attend. These include pupil councils in schools, councils formed from several schools such as the Wyke Area Schools' Council, and the Hull Youth Parliament, which meets in the Guildhall. Mr Mason said that children in Sierra Leone do not have a 'pupil voice' at all. Mr Browning asked everyone in the meeting, what they thought it meant by a 'pupil voice' There were many interesting replies. Councillors discussed how important it was that children have a say in things. This could be to improve things in their own schools or in the local area. It could be to do something for charity or to raise money for a project. It could be to buy some new playground equipment or to ask the head teacher to do something like having a talent competition in school.

An IPC has been set up in Hull and another in Freetown. There has also been another IPC formed in Hastings, on the south coast of England, as they are linked with Sierra Leone.

Mr Browning explained that in Sierra Leone, children hadn't got any say at all. Many of them were poor, lived on the streets and didn't go to school. They had to beg for food and clothes! Many teachers have been to Sierra Leone to visit their partner schools over there and were shocked by the conditions. As schools it is difficult to send things over there – a school cannot send any of its money (or funding) – this is not allowed. It could send gifts or raise money but these are hard to get to Sierra Leone.

Over the last few years IPC councillors and schools have done lots of things to do with Sierra Leone and are still doing things. The IPC led a project on waste management and recycling. This linked in with Hull City Council, who had sent over rubbish lorries to help the people clean up the city. The IPC had also started helping the schools with discipline. The IPC had also done projects to record 'A day in the life of a pupil in both schools.

Schools have also been involved in helping schools in other countries as well as Sierra Leone. Mr Browning asked if councillors could tell the group what their school had been doing:

**Stepney** had visitors last year. This year they have been helping a school in Papua New Guinea as well. Stanley Gene is a famous Rugby League player in Hull. He has set up a charity to help his home village, which is deep in the rain forest of Papua New Guinea. Stepney have sent lots of their old school chairs to the country as the school children have been sitting on the floor of their school for lessons. Stepney are hoping to send some computers over there as well.

**Collingwood** had eleven people come from Sierra Leone as part of the Global Partnership Exchange. While they were here, they went to restaurants, an ice-hockey match, the Guildhall to meet the Lord Mayor and the Endsleigh centre but of course, their main reason was to work in schools and to see what we do. They are also raising money to send to Africa as part of Red Nose day. The three Collingwood councillors showed us some of the posters they are displaying around their school for this event.

**Pearson** have sent over whiteboards + white boards pens plus chalk to Alvette school in Sierra Leone. They have an impressive display in school and have had a harvest festival about Africa as well.

**Chiltern** hadn't anything to report this time but will look into what their school has been doing.

**Thanet** had their partner school's head teacher visit them from Sierra Leone. They donated an assortment of resources, such as pencils, books, puppets, toys etc.

**Bellfield** had an impressive folder to show us with photos of the visit of the head teacher from their school in Freetown.

**Thoresby** have sent 20 computers, footballs, whiteboards, pens to a school in Brazil. They raised money from a 'Thoresby's Got Talent' show.

#### **4. Restorative Practices – A Case Study**

Mr Browning explained that Mr Mason sends over minutes from the meetings that the IPC in Freetown has. Unfortunately, because more time had been spent on the introductions today, as it was the first meeting for all the councillors present, this will be discussed at the next meeting.

#### **5. Priorities for the next year & 6. Actions**

We will discuss this in more depth at the next meeting but we did have a guest, who had been invited at the last moment. Francesca Dale had written an email to all the heads in the city, explaining that she is an 'International Service Volunteer, participating in the International Citizen

Service Programme. She will be heading off to Burkina Faso in West Africa in April. Mr Browning had suggested that she might like to come along to the IPC meeting and she had agreed. Burkina Faso is world's third poorest country. Francesca explained that she will be working with human rights, women's rights amongst other things. She asked if there is any chance that the IPC could help her in her fund raising efforts. Although the time span is very short, and schools are participating in other charity events, such as Comic Relief, councillors agreed to think of possible money raising ideas. These are some of the ones the children came up with:

- 1) Carrying water in containers around the playground to symbolise what many people have to do in Africa every day to get their fresh water;
- 2) Non-uniform days;
- 3) Fancy dress;
- 4) Selling red noses;
- 5) Toy sales;
- 6) Sing songs.

Francesca reported that she is doing a sponsored Bungee jump and other friends are arranging a rock show night at a local night club. She is also hoping that Hull City are going to help her. We agreed that IPC members would go to their own school pupil councils and see if they can think of ways to help out.

## **6. Any Other Business**

Everyone thanked Mrs Hindson and the Pearson IPC councillors for their hospitality today & refreshments

## **7. Dates & Times for Next Meeting**

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2013