

## **Pupil participation at the heart of the health-promoting school**

"Children and young people have the right to participate in decision-making that affects them ." (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child). All children and young people, regardless of their age or ability can offer experience and knowledge, new perspectives, skills, time and both creative and practical ideas.

### **What pupil participation means**

- Expressing views and being listened to
- Exploring new ideas and developing skills
- Trying new things and taking action
- Being part of decision-making processes
- Taking ownership and representing others
- Finding new ways to communicate

### **How it can work**

- Listening and talking on an everyday basis
- Creative, inclusive consultation
- Pupil councils / forums
- Pupils setting the agenda
- Community projects
- School websites and newsletters
- Peer support and education
- Asking pupils what support they need
- Mediation and conflict resolution
- Local, national and international citizenship programmes
- Involving pupils in school working groups and committees

### **Benefits for pupils**

- A positive school experience
- Development of skills, confidence and self-worth
- Being listened to and being valued
- Being supported to express views and ideas
- Sharing experiences and learning from each other
- Being part of positive change in school

### **Benefits for the community**

- School feels happier, safer and a better place to be
- Improved pupil-staff communication and relationships
- Greater understanding of the issues affecting the wellbeing of children and young people
- More effective planning and development
- New, creative and effective ways of working with children and young people
- Opportunities for pupils to lead projects and developments