

Life at school *Imagineers*

Part One: Our Primary School

Children from across the City are Imagining Aberdeen as a place where children are healthy, happy and safe. Our band of 25 Imagineers are aged 9 to 12 and their role is to help adults understand children's experiences and aspirations. Children's human rights are based on the idea of human dignity and relationships based on empathy, kindness and trust.

Our Imagineers talk about life at home, in the community and at school. Most of our Imagineers are at primary school, from P5 to P7. To start our new school year together the children have been reflecting on what is going well at school, what isn't going so well, where they get support if they have a question or a worry and how to make school better for everyone.

DEAR SCHOOL....

The Imagineers have identified things that Primary Schools can do to improve life at school for everyone. This includes more things to do in the playground, help when children need it, improved lunches and help when children feel stressed or upset.

Many things our Imagineers say about school life, and making it better, are about how children behave in the classroom and toward each other. Imagineers have been thinking about making school a place where children and adults have relationships based on empathy, kindness and trust. They say that we all need to work together better to make school a place where children are healthy, happy and safe and can do their best.

Have you found the ideas from the Imagineers helpful? You can let the Imagineers know what you think, get in touch via our blog bit.ly/ImaginingAberdeen

Children's Parliament recently reviewed our work with children across Scotland and published 'School Should be a Joyful Place'
www.childrensparliament.org.uk/publications/

WHAT'S GOING WELL FOR ME

The lessons the Imagineers like most are Maths, PE, Art and Music. Children also enjoy the Daily Mile and playing with friends at break and lunchtime. Friendships are really important to all the Imagineers, and they are pleased when they are going well. Imagineers who get extra support for learning like it when they get to work one-to-one or to work in small groups with a teacher or PSA.

The Imagineers remind us, as adults, to think about the question: **Do I know what is going well for each child, so that we can build on interests and achievements?**



WHAT'S NOT GOING WELL FOR ME

Some of the Imagineers think that they are not doing well with their reading and writing and worry about it. Many of the Imagineers feel that they get too much homework. It's not easy sometimes trying to do homework at home.

A big concern for Imagineers and their friends is when the behaviour of some children stops other people learning or is a distraction.

Imagineers talk about the problems that can happen when people don't get on. Sometimes this is when people say mean, unkind things. Sometimes this is bullying. Imagineers would like the adults in school to be better at listening to them and sorting problems.

When they are at school children can worry about what's happening at home. They might feel sad or lonely sometimes when they are at school.

The Imagineers who will be moving on to Secondary school at the end of their P7 year have started doing some work on transitions, sometimes this seems far away but at other times Imagineers and their classmates already feel a bit worried about the move.

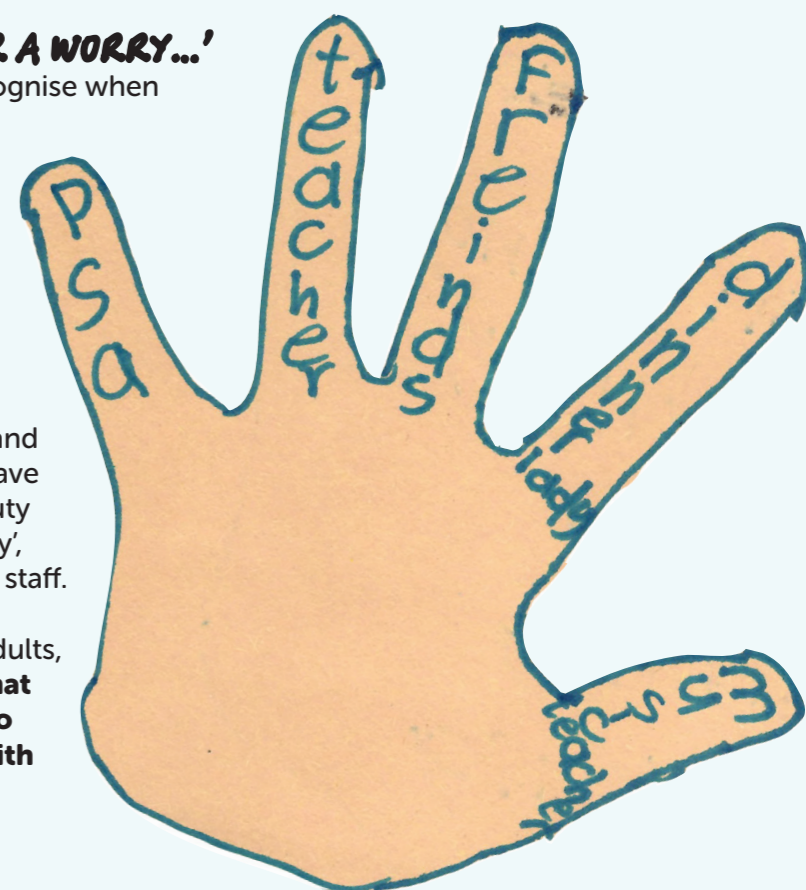
The Imagineers remind us, as adults, to think about the question: **How do I pay attention to what might not be going well for a child?**

"We all have our homework but my brothers say that I have a lot of homework."

'IF I HAVE A QUESTION OR A WORRY...'

We want our Imagineers to recognise when something is a worry. We want them to be able to think of an adult who they can go to with a question. The Imagineers talked about who they would go to and identified family members as important. For all the Imagineers there is also someone in school they can go to – mostly their class teacher and their PSA. Some children also have a good relationship with a Deputy Head, Headteacher, 'Dinner-lady', Counsellor or the School office staff.

The Imagineers remind us, as adults, to think about the question: **What kind of adult do I need to be so that a child can come to me with a question or a worry?**



Children's Parliament
Imagining Aberdeen

Imagining Aberdeen is a partnership between Children's Parliament and Aberdeen City Council



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 giving ideas a voice
www.childrensparliament.org.uk
 0131 558 9030
 @creative_voices