

Children's Parliament

What kind of Aberdeen?



I would like to say that I am doing something to make Aberdeen a better place.

It's fun and exciting. We do activities to make sure adults get to know young people better.

- Leo



We went to Pittodrie and we met important people like lawyers and sports people.

- Abdullah

The workshops have been groups with imagineers and adults. We are doing them so adults can understand what children want.

- Aidan

Different schools have been involved. We have been showing each other our different personalities. At Pittodrie we had a tour and we talked about our rights and our health and being safe.

- Kadie



- Demi

At our workshop adults might learn about children's rights. Like what gets in the way of our learning and what adults can do to make a child feel happy.

- Caitlin



The United Nations says that all children should be born into, and grow up in, an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding. But how do we get there? This question was at the heart of the **Imagineers'** 2018 project: **What kind of Aberdeen?**

The **Imagineers** are children aged 9 to 13 years old who are supported by Children's Parliament and Aberdeen City Council. Previously, the **Imagineers** have played a role in influencing how Aberdeen's Children's Services and Education are planned, and in 2018 **Imagineers** wanted to have a bigger impact on the City.

In the Year of Young People, the **Imagineers** developed a creative workshop, which they delivered to more than 100 adults who work in different sectors across Aberdeen – in Culture & Play, in Sports & Leisure, in Emergency Services (Police, Ambulance and Fire Services) in Housing & Health. The workshops were hosted in great venues – from His Majesty's Theatre to a Fire Station to Pittodrie Stadium! A big thank-you to all our hosts.

Through the workshops, the adult attendees heard from children about their lives and their aspirations for **a city where children are healthy, happy and safe - a place where every child lives a good life.**

The workshop is creative. We build Viking boats play games and get to go on tours, like at Pittodrie Football Stadium and His Majesty's Theatre.

- Naomi

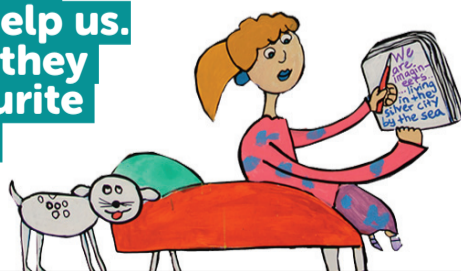


We've basically been talking to the adults about human rights and the rights of a child and we've also been building a Viking ship with them while listening to an audio tape with our story and then we get a tour of wherever we are.

- Gabrielle

We speak to adults and say what we think, and say stuff that doesn't help us. So speaking to adults about how they can help children. That's my favourite bit, doing the speaking to adults.

- Malachy



We've been doing workshops with adults, so they understand our feelings, so when they have kids they understand their feelings. We understand adults, but they don't always understand us.

- Leah

What kind of Aberdeen Workshops What the participants say...

Imagineers asked adult participants for feedback. The Imagineers thought about this and then responded:

The Imagineers communicated well and expressed their feelings in a positive manner.

- Adult participant

I think that this is nice because they are complimenting us. It makes me happy because I know I am doing a good job being an Imagineer.

- Katie

I like speaking in little groups. Different adults to talk to can be good.

- Tijana

This adult has taught me I can work in a group. I knew I could but I didn't feel I was the best. Now I feel confident. It makes me proud.

- Sean Paul

I get the feeling it's quite true. We've been trying really hard and I feel quite happy about it.

- Gabrielle

The children worked well in a group setting, confident in sharing their ideas and thoughts.

- Adult participant



I felt a real sense of genuineness from the Imagineers - nothing felt scripted or rehearsed, they brought their own values and opinions to the workshop, and as a result I got a sense that they really valued the things they had learned. Their leadership skills were also excellent, which really helped deliver the core values of the workshop.

- Adult participant

That's actually really nice because we like doing the workshops, thinking about what our communities could be like. Aberdeen and Scotland could be a better place.

- Leah

To make Aberdeen a better place we teach other people what we learn. We've learned how to make Aberdeen a better place.

- Shannon

The Imagineers all spoke really well and contributed to the group. They were very open about some of the issues they face on a daily basis.

- Adult participant

I'm not going to hide these issues. The reason I'm in the Imagineers is to get it out there. Adults do need to speak out and put it across that children matter as much as them.

- Jamie

That's amazing. It was really good that we could make them feel comfortable and learn at the same time.

- Leah

The kids in my group really had a good grasp on what was important for them to feel safe and valued, growing up in their communities.

- Adult participant

So what we said, like listen to children, that adult is going to do that! We made them improve. It has made me feel very mature.

- Sean Paul

I like hearing their ideas too.

- Kadie

Very helpful with sharing ideas and good at explaining tasks. Children were lovely to work with.

- Adult participant

**I like
opinion
healthy
what the
need**

I like how they are listening to what we have to say. The adults can take our ideas and try to use them or pass them onto other adults.

- Demi

That's good. And I promise to listen to adults too, and respect you and promise to be healthier and safer and be more honest.

- Kadie

My lantern is proudly sitting on my desk and my badges are a great talking point.

- Adult participant

It is good that the adult cares and appreciates the time we've taken to make the lantern. They can show it to other people and explain our ideas.

- Mikey

I pledge to hold children's ideas, beliefs and dignity at highest regard. I pledge to always listen carefully, remain non-judgemental and empathic, and encourage and respect all voices.

- Adult participant

That's nice because the adult really thought about what we did together and how they might improve. It is nice to know they are glad to have come to the workshop.

- Kiera

Thanks, that's our aim.

- Jamie

I like seeing adults' reactions on the happy, safe scrolls and they think children's ideas. It's different to what kids think.

- Sammy

All the Imagineers were polite, well-mannered and conducted themselves very well. They are a credit to themselves and anyone working with them.

- Adult participant

My favourite part has been building the Viking boats and meeting everyone. I like getting to know what jobs they do.

- Caitlin

I learned that the Imagineers are passionate about what they do and what they stand for!

- Adult participant

That's a good thing to hear. It makes us feel more confident about doing the workshops. Some of us are quite shy. This encourages us to do more.

- Leah

We met important people. The workshops were about team work. It made us more confident working with new adults. Over the years of being Imagineers, we have become more confident with each other and with the Children's Parliament team. We have a strong connection and now know what to do.

- Mikey



#imaginingaberdeen

Groups across Aberdeen asked the Imagineers to investigate and respond to specific issues.

FIND OUT MORE

More information is available from our website:
www.childrensparliament.org.uk

Look Again Festival (June 2018)

- For the Look Again festival, in collaboration with artist group Rumpus Room, the Imagineers produced a zine and exhibition informed by their experiences of play. They want adults to encourage children to play by letting children make their own mistakes, warn about dangers and keep supporting children by encouraging them to play. Friends, spare time, choices, the right environment and being relaxed and calm, all help the Imagineers to play.

Image: Imagineers explore play as part of the Look Again Festival



My favourite bit has been meeting new people and exploring new places. Meeting people who can help, people who do sports, people who do theatre stuff. - Dylan

It's been fun. I make jokes in my group every time!

- Ben

We made boats and decorated flags and shields. We had scrolled up paper with our ideas for what kids need to be happy, healthy and safe. We wrote what gets in the way on rocks.

- Lucy

Imagining Summer Holidays (Summer 2018)

- Children's experience of the summer holidays can be great. For many of the Imagineers, this is an opportunity to spend time with family, go somewhere new, learn in a different way or play with friends. For others, it can be difficult to stay happy, healthy and safe. The Poverty and Inequality Commission has included the Imagineers' experiences in their advice for the Scottish Government on addressing poverty during school holidays: <https://povertyinequality.scot/publications>

I liked meeting the footballers and the business man with the glasses. I found talking to them easy. We learn to speak to adults and they learn about children's rights. I like that the adults still have their lanterns and badges from our workshop. The adults have made promises because of our workshop. - Deacon

We try to get adults to realise that children are important by doing a lot of workshops and we share our opinions to adults so they would listen to us. Asking adults about what school should be like for children and how adults should treat them. That they should listen to us and let us have our say. My favourite part was when we got to discuss what children need to be healthy, happy and safe because I liked hearing other people's ideas.

- Miriam

Image: Imagineers drew ice-creams to represent the summer holidays



Aberdeen Tobacco Free Alliance (Oct 2017 - Mar 2018)

- The Aberdeen Tobacco-Free Alliance invited the Imagineers to talk about people smoking. In their communities, Imagineers see adults and teenagers smoking in the parks; at front doors; in their houses; in cars; at the bus stop; when people walk their dogs; and outside on the street. The Imagineers want more smoke free zones and smoking areas in the places where they live.

I feel people trust us to help them and teach them about the Imagineers.

- Croydon

We bring adults in and tell them what keeps us healthy, happy and safe. Basically, the thing I like most is talking about what we do and asking and answering questions.

- Ralfs

Image: The Imagineers' Tobacco Free Aberdeen Poster



More about Children's Parliament

Children's Parliament is Scotland's centre of excellence for children's participation and engagement. Through our projects, programmes and consultations we work with children, the adults who love and care for them, and the wider communities in which they live. We work across the domains of **home, school and community**. Our purpose is to promote understanding of, and commitment to, implementation of **the rights of the child**. We do this by helping children and adults to learn that rights-based relationships are built on the core idea of **human dignity** alongside empathy, kindness and trust. We emphasise the need to address the needs and rights of children as distinct from young people or adults, but remind every individual citizen and public body that **children's rights are human rights**.



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Project delivered on behalf of Aberdeen City Council



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