



MINUTES OF SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, 24<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2018 @ 9:30am

**PRESENT:**

F3 : Harry, Hannah  
C3 : Jake, Josh  
L1 : Elliott, Emily, Chris  
L3 : Aaron, Scott  
GC1 : Eve, Cameron  
GC3 : Jordan, Lottie  
GCC : Kieron  
Hoyland : Shannon, Dakota

**ABSENT:**

C1 : Aaron, James  
C2 : Toluwa, Harry  
L2 : Neil, Courtney  
GC2 : Emily, Alex  
GCC : Leighton  
Kexborough : Ben, Joshua  
Carlton : Lee, Trinity

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Zoe  
Diane  
Elaine  
Emma  
Stephanie – Barnsley Food Bank

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Zoe welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded the student councillors that at the last school council meeting Debby came to talk to us about how we can help her with the Have A Say questionnaire. She wanted classes to come up with some ideas of how students that are unable to talk etc can communicate. Jordan and Lottie said that they have spoken to their class and had the following suggestions:

PECs

Giving a choice of answers

Some classes have put their ideas onto SeeSaw.

Zoe advised that Debby is going to be joining the meeting alter and students can relay their ideas to her.

**Visit from Food Bank**

Zoe introduced Stephanie to the school councillors – Stephanie is from the Barnsley Food Bank and will be collecting the food that was donated for the Harvest Festival last week and she will answer any questions about food banks that we have.

Lottie asked Steph – how do people use a food bank? Steph said that the food bank is completely free and the reason is that a lot of the time families that use food banks don't

have much money so they need help from them. We are able to give them food that is donated.

Josh asked where the Food Bank is located? It is in Wombwell, near the big Tesco supermarket. It is a large warehouse where all the food is stored. All that food is sent to different places in Barnsley to make sure they have supplies for people that need it.

Kieran asked do people go weekly? Some people might come once a week or once a month but what they are trying to do is help them with budgeting their money so that they don't have to use the food bank often.

Zoe opened SeeSaw and read some questions out from there:

What sort of food do they give? Steph advised that they give all different types of food (e.g. tinned food – pasta, spaghetti, vegetables, fruit, meat, potatoes, tuna, sweetcorn). Also, biscuits, cereal, tea and coffee.

Jordan asked if people can donate more than just food (e.g. games), yes, they take donations of toys, shower gel, toothpaste, cleaning products. Some people can give money donations too and that goes into an account so that they can buy new things if donations run low.

Any donations can be brought to the warehouse in Wombwell, Jordan lives in Royston so there is a food bank in the Salvation Army in Royston.

F3 representatives asked what happens at the food bank? Steph said that there is a group of people that make up food parcels and those crates then go into the van to be delivered to the different foodbanks around Barnsley. There is another group of people that check the dates on the products so that everything is fresh.

Who might go there? Anyone can go there, families who have lots of children, people who live on their own, some people that do not have a home or anywhere to sleep on a night, people that work really hard but have good jobs but still might not be able to afford food – anyone can go as long as they live in Barnsley.

Zoe asked if some people that visit the food bank are sometimes upset – Steph said that sometimes they are because they are sad that they cannot just go out and buy food or they may feel embarrassed that they cannot afford food. The staff are really nice and friendly and see everyone from different backgrounds, they sit and have a drink and a chat so that they don't feel sad or upset and they then take their food parcel home.

Do they have food banks in every country – no they don't.

Zoe asked councillors what qualities they may need if they wanted to work in a food bank? Some answered that they would need to be a busy person and to be caring.

Elaine asked Steph if they provide foods for different ethnicities / beliefs (vegan, halal, gluten free). Steph advised that they tailor their food parcels specifically if they know of their preferences. They have a team of referral partners that help process the food bank vouchers and its their jobs to ask all those questions (e.g. do people have allergies).

L1 representatives asked how many food banks are in this country – Steph is not sure but the Trussell trust that own the food bank she works at have 3 in Barnsley centre and 11 others around Barnsley. They also have food banks in other cities around the UK.



There never used to be any food banks at all and the food bank in Barnsley started in September 2013 and some of the larger cities had them before then.

Josh asked how to get to a food bank? Steph said that those who live close by can walk, if not then there is foodbank van that can maybe deliver it somewhere nearby. There are 3 in the town centre, 11 in the Barnsley area.

Chris asked what time the food banks close – they all run on different days at different times and specific information can be found on their website <https://barnsley.foodbank.org.uk/> There is one open today at Hope House 12-2pm in Barnsley. People are given a code to go and collect their food parcels at a day and time. Zoe asked if they get chose their items as they would if they visited a supermarket – the parcel is prepared from a shopping list in the warehouse and they prepare the parcels from the list ready to send out to the different food banks around Barnsley ready for collection.

Steph advised that at Christmas they make the food parcels a little bit more exciting - they include advent calendars, more treat items (e.g. chocolates), maybe some special Christmas puddings, to make the package a bit more Christmassy.

Steph was invited to join the student councillors have a snack and drink.

Chris and Hannah helped Zoe put the snacks out.

Steph thanked everyone for the brilliant questions.

### **Have a Say**

Debby joined the meeting and the student councillors told her what they have said to their class mates about making sure they all are able to have a say. Ideas of how those that cannot communicate can make sure they still have a voice were:

Signing

Using in iPad

PECs

Debby said that she would really like students to put all of their findings on SeeSaw (tell their teachers to do that so that Debby can do a filter on Have A Say and show the rest of the leadership team).

Ask everyone in class to put something on SeeSaw about how our children have a say about our school.

Zoe showed GC3s ideas on SeeSaw – they are fabulous.

It is important that we think about those children that cannot use words to speak as we need to know what everyone thinks.

Thank you everyone for thinking about it – Debby will keep checking SeeSaw for the info and students can speak to Debby on the corridor when its not teaching and learning time.

Well done everyone.

Zoe said that when students are doing brilliant things at school and it is put on SeeSaw there is now a school council folder. Can students tell their teachers when they go back to class to make sure they have a School Council folder that way they do not have to use paper note books for school council information gathering.

Bring an iPad to all future school council meetings.

Zoe will e-mail teachers to let them know to put any school council related info into the correct folder on SeeSaw.

### **Shoe Box Appeal**

What is the Shoe Box Appeal?

Eve – it is where you put some nice things into a shoe box – toys etc. she is not sure where it was sent to.

Kieran – other people in the world that might not have as many nice things as we have.

James – for Christmas

Lottie – they do this at Girls Brigade each year.

This term in the school council two of the main things we are doing are called ‘social action’. Thinking about people that are not as lucky or fortunate as us in our own community in Barnsley, the next step is to do it in the whole world. We are going to start filling shoe boxes with things we think children will want.

At the next school council meeting we will see videos of children that have received the shoe boxes in the past. Jacob B from GC2 may attend the next meeting to talk about it.

Students to think about what things they would like to find in a shoe box. The shoe boxes will be decorated too. Zoe will e-mail this info out to staff too.

Everyone thanked Steph and gave her a round of applause.

### **Actions:**

- Bring an iPad to all future school council meetings.
- Zoe will e-mail teachers to let them know to put any school council related info into the correct folder on SeeSaw.
- Ask everyone in class to put something on SeeSaw about how our children have a say about our school.
- Zoe will e-mail staff to remind students to have a think about what items they would like to find in a shoe box.

The meeting closed at: 10.27am

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