

School Council Cultural Capital

“As part of making the judgement about the quality of education, inspectors will consider the extent to which schools are equipping pupils with the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life. Our understanding of ‘*knowledge and cultural capital*’ is derived from the following wording in the national curriculum: ‘It is the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best that has been thought and said and helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and *achievement*.’”

(Ofsted School Inspection Handbook, Nov 2019)

Cultural Capital is the accumulation of knowledge, behaviours and skills that a student can draw upon and which demonstrates their cultural awareness, knowledge and competence. It is one of the key ingredients a student will draw upon to be successful in society, at secondary school and further education and eventually their career and the world of work.

At Dean Field we have two groups of councillors: the ‘Rights Respecting Council’ and the ‘Well-being council.’ They both work together to ensure that pupil voice is heard and that pupils are involved in decision making. They also play a huge part in promoting and teaching children about the United Nations Rights of a Child Convention.

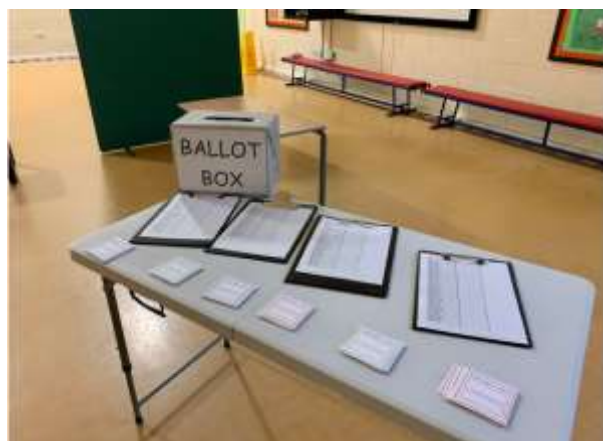
Harvest Festival

As a school, we collected harvest festival donations for a local food bank. Our councillors helped deliver the donations down to the food bank where they were informed about the types of families they are helping.



Hearts for Homes

This Christmas, the pupils of Dean Field were very saddened to hear that some care homes are not allowing visitors so some people will not be able to see their loved ones. They decided they wanted to spread some Christmas cheer in our local care homes so they designed and decorated some festive hearts and delivered them to our local care homes.



School Council elections

In September, we held our annual school council elections. This is where all the children get the opportunity to experience what it is like visiting a polling station to place a vote. All pupils in school voted for two members of their class that they would like to represent them. Prior to this, children that were standing in the elections got the opportunity to write and present a manifesto to the rest of the class.

Book Donations

Our councillors decided that they wanted to give some of the books at Dean Field a new home. They thought it would be a good idea to donate them to other children in the community. Our school councillors dropped a number of boxes of books off at the Innovations Children's Centre and at Beech Hill Primary School.



Pupil Voice Campaign

At Dean Field, we always encourage our well-being councillors to vocalise things that they feel are affecting them. Our councillors noticed that some parents are not adhering to the COVID-19 guidelines in the playground and they decided to do more to enforce them. Our councillors decided to make posters to stick up around the playground as a visual reminder to parents and carers for when they drop off/ pick up children.

Teacher Interview Process

At Dean Field, pupils voice influences and is very important in decision making. When the senior leadership team are looking to employ new staff, the school councillors are part of the interview process. The councillors get the opportunity to meet the candidates and ask them a series of questions to check if they are suitable for the Dean Field Team.



Our School Charter

As part of our commitment to being a Rights Respecting School, our councillors have worked together to create our whole school charter. After discussing the articles on the UNCRC, they picked out the ones that were the most important to children at Dean Field and thought about all the things they were committed to doing. They also thought about the most important commitments and responsibilities staff have in school to ensure that the rights of pupils are met. They designed the learning charter to support a positive learning environment in classrooms, in shared areas, in the school hall and in the playground. Both staff and children understand, and are committed to, their roles on the school charter.



Stars in our School

Every year we hold a 'Stars in our School' celebration assembly where we celebrate all the hard work our teaching assistants and non-teaching staff do. Unfortunately, this year, we couldn't get together as a school to do this so our councillors and our Head Boy and Head Girl took on the responsibility of ensuring that all staff received a certificate recognising their hard work. They got the opportunity to thank all the amazing staff at Dean Field and tell them why they are appreciated.



Curriculum Topic Boards

At the end of the half term, each year group showcases all the topic work they have done over the half term on a display board. Our school councillors and well-being councillors are then tasked with the job of deciding which board they think is the best. They provide feedback to all classes and present the winning class with a prize.



