

## Pupil Voice - Appendix 1 – Pupil Action Groups

### **Pupil Action Groups Explained:**

Knavesmire Primary School's *pupil voice policy* outlines the breadth of ways in which its pupil's views influence both policy and practice at the school. The school does not run a **school council** but instead leads its pupil voice in school development through **Pupil Action Groups**. The decision to replace a traditional model school council with these working parties, is framed by the following principles:

#### **Pupils Action Groups,**

- are elected by peers in the context of the specific action group focus;
- are compiled from representatives of the classes relevant to the action group focus;
- are specific to focus areas that can be influenced by pupil voice;
- are diverse and represent all aspects of the school pupil community;
- liaise with the different members of school staff specific to the school development focus.

Pupil Action Groups are peer elected and are distinct to each action group focus. As classes fairly elect for each different focus in response to specific issues, it prevents elitism or popularity contests. The election of different action groups enables the process to grow and evolve in each individual class.

Flexibility of representation enables compilation of Pupil Action Groups to be relevant to the specific action group focus.

Themes for Pupil Action Group Focus are selected such that pupil voice can influence decision making and school development. The role of pupils as stakeholders is valued and active at Knavesmire Primary School.

Knavesmire's School Pupil Community is fully represented by Pupil Action Groups. Peer election of a number of different Pupil Action Groups enables the diversity of the pupil community to be represented and to contribute to school development in a meaningful way. Invitation of individuals to action groups ensure representation of pupil groups is fulfilled without compromising the peer election process.

A breadth of staff, responsible for school development, work alongside Pupil Action Groups. Experience of working with a variety of staff both ensures relevance to task focus and realistic completion of individual projects in agreed timescales (where relevant).

Some examples of Pupil Action Group focus areas are/have been: The Big Idea Curriculum – Next Steps; Pupil Safety – Anti-bullying; The NEW Island Garden; Knavesmire Community Garden and Wild Life Area. Some focus areas are finite in length however others involve periodic meeting and review. The model of Pupil Action Groups enables an appropriate individualised approach to each focus area.