

A Children's Charter for School Age Childcare in Dundee



A Children's Charter for Dundee

In November 2022, a group of us from Rowantree Primary School were joined by A Place in Childhood, Scottish Government and Dundee City Council to talk about the Best Out of School Club possible. Our group represented the whole school, from P1-7!

To start the day, we talked about what it's like in Linlathen, which is the area we live in. We then designed a tour of the area and took our adult facilitators to show them the sights. We took photos and a video of our journey. This helped us to think about where the Best Out of School Club could take place in our local community.

The next thing we did was talk about who would be the best person to run the Best Out of School Club and why. We drew pictures and wrote down all the qualities of the best person.

After this, we talked about what activities we would do, and discussed how this might be different after school, on the weekends and during the school holidays. We also talked a little bit about why the Best Out of School Club would be good for us.

Below is a note of everything we talked about. This is our Children's Charter!

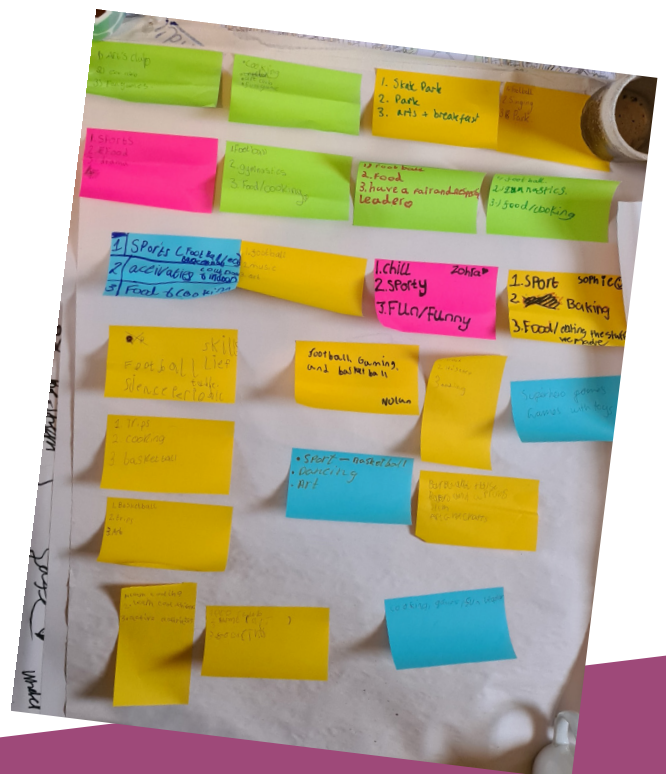
WHAT activities could we do in the Best Out of School Club?

We would like to be able to:

- Go to local outdoor spaces - like the parks on our map to play. We could also go to the skatepark with skateboards and scooters.
- Learn and perform expressive arts - like Glee club, singing, film making, dancing and music.
- Play sports - football on the astroturf, basketball, netball, football, swimming, karate, and kickboxing.
- Play with animals - for example, we might be able to walk dogs.
- Making a difference - some of us do this at Eco Club and The Rights Respecting Schools Group. Things like this or other clubs where we might do things for each other and the community would be great. For example, we might do more about recycling, or getting everyone's views on different ideas and things to change.
- Learn new skills (Including life skills) - like science, art, cooking, baking, cleaning, taking care of animals, coding, or languages (especially sign language). Some of us also think we could do more of the outdoor and community skills they learn in clubs like Rainbows, Brownies, Cubs and Scouts.
- Just play fun games - like tig or benchball.
- Eat good food together - like a breakfast and a tea club. We'd also like snacks and ice-cream.
- Go on trips - we all want to have new experiences! We'd especially like to go to

The Dundee Science Centre, a fire station, and soft play like Fun Factory where they have small things for young kids and bigger stuff for older kids.

- Put on a Family Fun Day - the last one we went to had a fire engine, a gaming hut, facepainting, dressing up, a silent disco and food. It was all free.
- Game together - online and offline, as it's more fun to be in the same room than doing it at home. Also, not everyone has all the games and gadgets at home.
- Build things - online and offline. Online we can use Minecraft. Offline, we could build dens, hideouts, nests and treehouses!
- Go to the shops - to buy food and things that the club needs.



WHO would run the Best Out of School Club?

The best person would be...

- Selfless, helpful and kind (but not too kind - that could mean they give all the club's stuff away and get distracted from keeping order).
- Fun, energetic, smiley, happy, playful and friendly.
- Skilled and good at teaching their skills well.
- Respectful and a good listener.
- A good role model - they'd be themselves, be honest, and own and learn from any mistakes they make.
- Be welcoming and supportive.
- Creative, amazing, funny.
- Show care in everything they do, like laying out the uniform for everyone at the football club before they arrive.

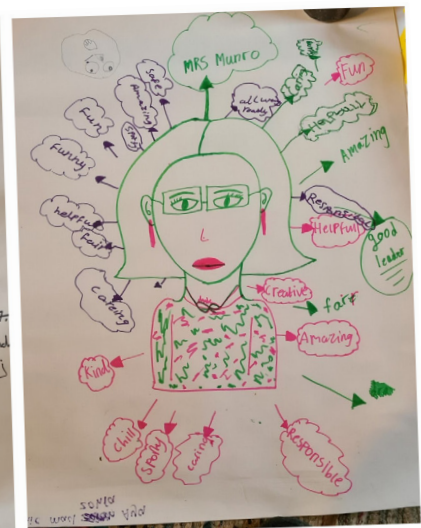
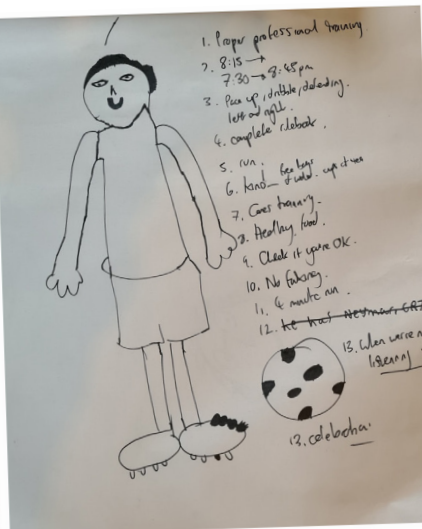
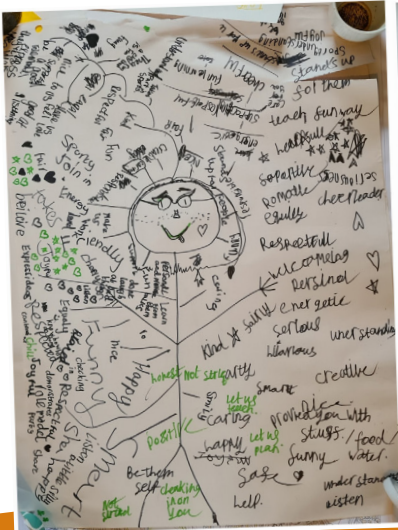
They'd also...

- Get involved in activities and not just watch.
- Check-in with everyone regularly to make sure they feel safe and supported.

- Give choice in what you do.
- Give you food that's both healthy and tasty.
- Set clear and fair rules.
- Make sure you get time out if you break the rules, but never get kicked out!
- Be trained well.
- Help you make your own celebrations. For example, if you win at football.

Our suggestions include:

- A teacher at our school!
- Our football coach.
- Spiderman.
- Quite a lot of us have Mums or Grannys that would be really good because they're kind and good at taking care of people. We could also name lots of good and useful skills they have from our list.
- Some of us or our friends or siblings would also be good at running the club. We think children should be able to take charge of as much as possible.



WHY would children and young people go to the Best Out of School Club?

The Out of School club would be important to our parents/carers if they needed to work or study longer hours than our school time lasts. It would also be helpful if they work the weekends and during the school holidays and they can't get enough time off to take care of us. The other main reason they might need us to go to the club is if they are ill or have had an accident. It will let them get the rest they need and not have to worry about us.

For children, the Out of School Club gives us the opportunity to rest and play with our friends. It can also give us a break from caring duties, or away from siblings when we might need a bit of space.

Sometimes it's really hard to see friends that don't live near you. At the club, this is all taken care of and we have time and choice to do what we want to do together. Our parents/carers also don't have to worry about finding us snacks or teaching us skills that they don't have themselves.

WHERE would the Best Out of School Club take place?

Places the club could be or take us to and why

- Camperdown Park and Zoo – further east from where we live. This is great for visiting and learning about wildlife.
- The Dundee Science Centre in the City Centre – the most fun trip some of us have been on. Many of us have never been!
- Finlathen Park – this is the best local park. It's big with lots of nature (including deer, squirrels and herons!) a burn, a historic bridge, exercise equipment, and a massive playground. It doesn't get as much trouble as Pitkerro Pirate Park.
- This is where Kids Fun House was in the summer. Only one of us made it out there, but it was brilliant.
- Oak Ward Wood – this is where there's sometimes a carnival.
- The Sports Centre at Caird Park – lots of activities we could take part in.
- The Blue Shop – this is an important place for snacks.
- Our primary school has good grounds, a dining hall, another lunch room and a sports hall that all gets used for the Out of School Club already.
- The Hub – our local library.

- Brooksbank Community Centre – a good place for parties and general activities. It has a picnic area and painted animals.
- The Roberts Shop – this is an important place for snacks.
- Pitkerro Pirate Park – this is right next to our school and pupils helped design what would go in it. It has a treehouse and a pond.
- Mid Craigie Park – another good park local to us. It's got a big MUGA and we can play basketball and bike over the ramps.
- The Yard – an adventure play ground for children with disabilities.
- Asda – good for food shopping.
- The Fun Factory – Soft play centre for all ages.
- Happy Hillcock Shopping Centre – there's a Subway, Iceland, Greggs and Hayat's food shop.
- The Swannie Pond – where you can see swans.
- Finlathen Skatepark – some of us come here with our scooters and skateboards and really love it.

Local things we would like to see improved.

- Kids Fun House – we might need to meet at the school to come here as many of us and our families don't know this area.
- Finlathen Park might need more lighting for us to be able to use it safely after school.
- The outside of the shop has some public art on it but it's also covered in graffiti.
- Our park has been vandalised by older young people in the community. Now we have to keep it locked from the outside and it still gets a lot of rubbish in it. We found a shopping trolley in the pond on our walks.



WHERE would the Best Out of School Club Take Place?

Key

Our Tour Route

Places the club could be or take us to and why

Local Things we'd like to see improved

The Roberts Shop





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