

A Children's Charter for School Age Childcare in Dingwall



A Children's Charter for Dingwall

In November 2022, a group of us from Ben Wyvis Primary School were joined by A Place in Childhood 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 Conon Bridge, Maryburgh and Loch Ussie, which are the places we live. We then designed a tour of Conon Bridge and took our adult facilitators on the tour. 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.

The youngest members of our group had to go home at this point, but the rest of us took everything we'd done during the day and talked about why the Best Out of School Club could be needed by us and our parents/carers, and how we might convince other people to join it with us.

After the session at our school, A Place in Childhood and Scottish Government went to speak to young carers from Dingwall and Alness, who take part in a social club run by Connecting Young Carers. As young carers, we talked about the things that the primary school pupils had discussed, and added new thoughts and ideas for our communities and circumstances.

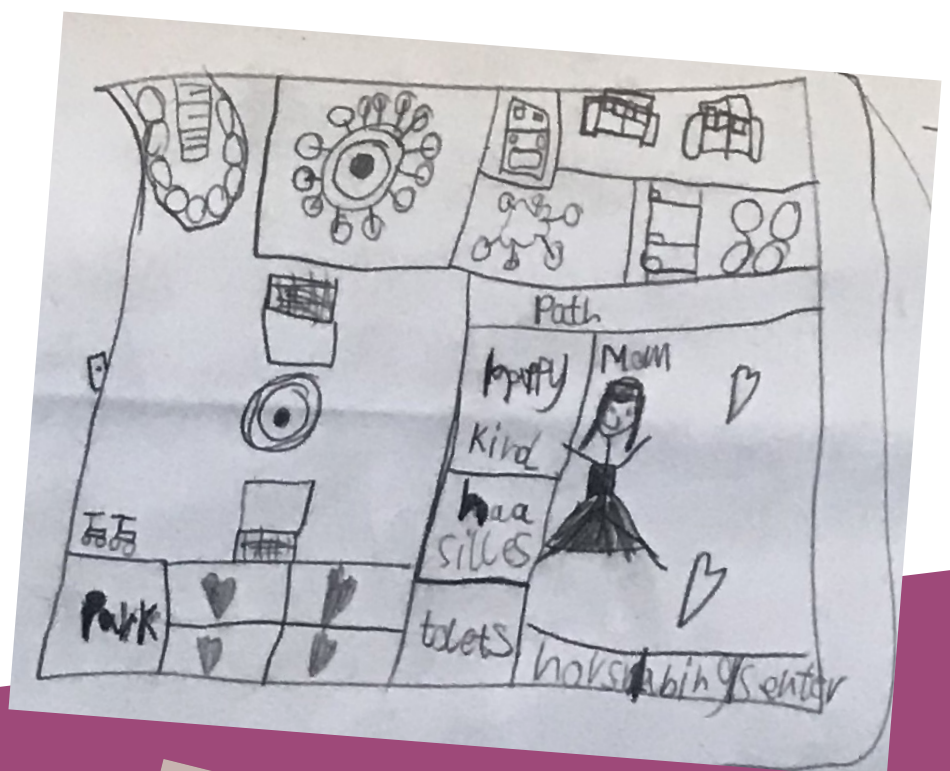
Below is a record of everything we talked about. This is our Children's Charter!

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

We would like to be able to:

- Chill out - read, eat, draw, watch TV, nap etc.
- Play games and sports - go to the football pitch, have a kickabout in the playground or local park. Also play board games.
- Visit local places to get food - Asda, Tesco, Spa, Co-op, McDonalds etc.
- Play with animals.
- Lots of outdoor activities.
- Learn new skills - like sports, cooking, baking, taking care of animals, fashion design, film-making, puppetry or languages.
- Grow food and raise animals.
- Go on trips - maybe to places in Dingwall, Inverness, or even the Isle of Skye. We like the sound of touring the places they filmed Harry Potter; a sour things tasting experience; Bettyhill; Loch Eil Outdoor Activity Centre, and going to the ice rink!
- Meet new people - some of us are home schooled, and would like to be able to meet more people in a safe and fun place.
- Talk to people we have stuff in common with - like in our Young Carers group.
- Do crafting activities together.
- Game together - online and offline. The club should also be able to provide electronic devices to children so they can play games with their friends.
- Build things - online and offline.

We drew some thoughts and layouts for our club. We thought it was important they have lots of spaces for different types of activities, kitchens, and easy to access toilets.



WHEN would we do different types of activities in the Best Out of School Club?

On weekdays, we thought it would just be good to rest and chillout. We don't have very much time and we're tired after school.

On weekends, we'd like to be able to have a lie-in and start activities later than the school day starts. We'd be interested to learn new types of things in a fun way. That could be languages, cooking, looking after animals, gardening etc. Some local trips could also be good.

During the school holidays, we think it would be great if everyone could design their holiday uniform, but you could also wear what you like. We also think it would be good to learn fun and creative things like at the weekend, but we especially want to go on trips. We could even go away overnight camping or to the Isle of Skye!

WHO would run the Best Out of School Club?

The best person would be...

- Social, joyful and not shout at us. They'd tell us quietly and respectfully if we'd done something wrong.
- Safe, careful and courageous. For example, if there was a fire we'd know they'd handle it really well and we'd all be OK.
- Funny and friendly.
- Happy, kind, silly, lovely, tidy, organised and helpful.
- Curious, creative, smart, strong and confident.
- Sensible when they need to be.
- Understanding about disabilities. They need to know that it can be painful, affect what you can do, and other people can treat you or your family differently.

They'd also....

- Be skilled at a lot of things, or bring in people to work with us that have specific skills. We suggest we need people that can spell, fart, teach gymnastics, eat, cook, and show us how to cook.
- Take no nonsense and set clear rules. You'd get time out for doing things wrong, but not be kicked out.

- Stop the club from getting too out of hand!
- Dress up - we suggest an elephant costume, a dinosaur costume, and maybe a dino-phat costume!
- Be good at getting rid of spiders.
- Check in with you about how you're doing, and give you support with your problems or time away from them.
- Give you choice about what you do.
- Make sure everyone is included.
- Give you more snacks than at school, and make a calmer atmosphere.

Our suggestions include:

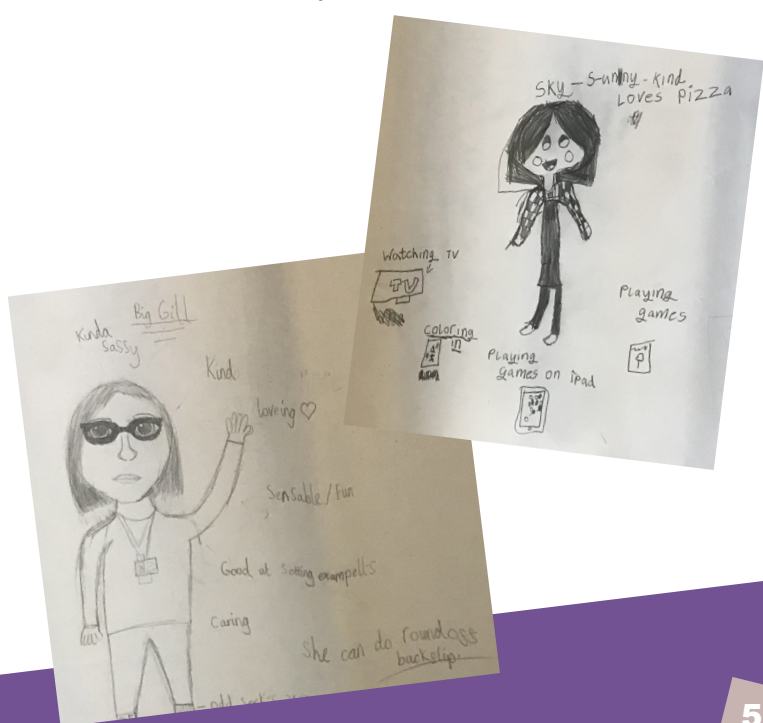
- Some of the teachers from our school because they let you do fun stuff, are good with kids, and can handle tough situations.
- Kevin the Minion as he's cool, not grumpy and acts a bit crazy.
- Quite a lot of us have Mums or Grannies that would be really good because they're kind and good at taking 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 if 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 Best Out of School Club gives us the opportunity to rest and play with our friends. It can also give us a break from our 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. In the Best Out of School Club, there would also be good transport options to help get us home if our parents/carers don't live that close or can't drive.



WHERE would the Best Out of School Club take place?

Places the club could be or take us to

Dingwall region

- Loch Achiltee – good for wild swimming and paddle boarding.
 - Dingwall Primary School – where some of us go.
 - St Clements Primary School – the ASN school in Dingwall.
 - Leisure and Community Centres in Dingwall – This is where Connecting Young Carers meets and where you can also take part in clubs like Kempo, go swimming and go to the gym.
 - A trip north to Bethhill.
 - Harry Potter filming locations around here!
 - Evanton Wood – its really peaceful and lots of things to do in it.
 - The woods and reservoir in Alness – good for exploring and play.
 - The swimming pool next to Alness Academy.
 - In Alness and Invergordon for meet ups and clubs. Alness Community Centre has a drop in for young people that's like a youth café.
 - Bungie Park – the best park in Maryburgh.
- Riverside Walks - nice to play in and be near nature.
 - The Conon Bar – a good place for food and drink.
 - The Green – this is a good space just for running about.
 - Donkey Park – Used to be better than it is now, but it's local.
 - Windsor Park – this is a good park with lots of equipment.
 - Co-op Park – this is a good playground and there's a good place to run around next to it. Its got good sledging hills in the winter and space for people to sit on the slopes and watch others play.
 - Out of School Club and Nursery Buildings at Ben Wyvis Primary – We have dedicated space for the club and lots of outdoor space to use.
 - Our MUGA.

Cononbridge

- The Cottage Bar – a good place for food and drink.
 - Maryburgh Park – it's good to kick a football around in.
- Maryburgh Park has a lot of broken glass, older young people drinking and swearing and rubbish.
 - Someone built a tree house in a community space around here. It got taken down by the Council without warning.
 - The Donkey we used to play on has been taken away. There's not much at this park anymore but there's quite a lot of graffiti.
 - We don't like graffiti and vandalism. Teenagers can ruin things we like to play on.

Key

Our Tour Route



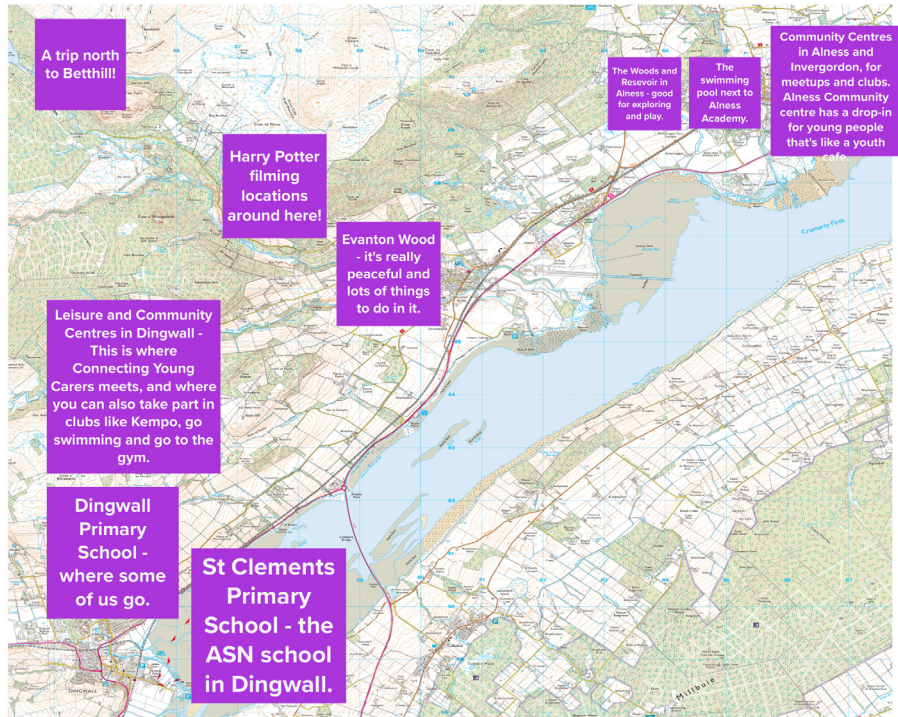
Places the club could be or take us to and why



Local Things we'd like to see improved



Loch Achiltee - good for wild swimming and paddle boarding.





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