

# **BRUNSWICK HOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **SMSC pupil voice: Pastoral Care for New Members**

**2019**

8 children from Years 1 -6 who had joined the school during this academic year or the summer term of 2018, met with Mrs Kitchen to discuss the experience of joining Brunswick House.

### **Key questions**

*What are your favourite things to do out of school?*

*What are your favourite things to do in school?*

*When did you join the school?*

*How did you feel when you first joined?*

*What helped you to feel welcome?*

*How could we make the experience of joining school better?*

*Any other comments?*

### **Findings**

Children's experiences of joining Brunswick House had been pleasingly positive. Pupils felt that they had been welcomed well and settled in happily to life at Brunswick House. Any initial nervousness or worries about joining a new school had been quickly overcome and all had found that the children and staff were welcoming and approachable, so that they were happy to ask for help and assistance with anything they needed.

### **Key Stage 1:**

Children had felt shy, nervous and a little scared about joining a new school. However, all reported that children were kind to them when they started school, the classes were welcoming and they soon felt part of our school. Children were friendly to them and helped them to find their way around. They talked about all of the opportunities that they particularly enjoyed at Brunswick, such as being a lunch monitor, taking part in World Book Day.

Children said that what helped them to feel welcome included:

- An adult showing them around the school.
- A buddy being assigned to help them on the first few days
- Friendliness of children in the class
- Approachability of children and staff, to help them learn their way around the building and to understand our routines.

Key Stage 1 children suggested that it would be good for all the members of the new class to introduce themselves by name on the first day – perhaps this could be incorporated as a simple circle-time type activity.

## **Key Stage 2:**

The Key Stage 2 new arrivals had come from a range of backgrounds, with some coming from smaller schools in nearby areas, others moving from further distances in the UK, and some coming to the UK from other countries. All reported that joining us at Brunswick House had been a straightforward process which had not been stressful or worrying for them. They were comfortable to ask children and staff about anything that they needed to know.

*“I felt terrified, but when I got there I was super happy because there were kind people.” Year 3 boy*

*“I felt excited on my first day because I already made a new friend. Children led me anywhere I didn’t know” Year 3 girl*

*“My buddy helped me feel welcome because she helped me around the school and helped me fit in.” Year 5 girl*

*“I think the buddies, enrichments and special weeks [Arts week, Sports week] are very helpful to feel like I belong.” Year 5 girl*

Children said that what helped them to feel welcome included:

- Having a tour of the school
- Having a buddy in class
- The friendliness of all children.

Key Stage 2 children agreed that they would like all children in the class to say their name so that they can start to learn names quickly. Additionally, one child said that they would like school rules explained to them early on.

## **Summary**

Our ethos and values are clearly demonstrated in how we welcome new members to our school. All age groups felt that our school did well at welcoming new pupils, that they were helped in their first few days and quickly made to feel part of the Brunswick House community.

## **Suggested actions:**

- To continue to give tours of the school prior to joining or in the first few days.
- To continue to give new children at least one nominated buddy in their class.
- To explain the school rules and behaviour system.
- To introduce all member of the class by name.