

Learning to listen



The Good Childhood Inquiry

- Two year independent inquiry to assess what makes for a good childhood in the 21st century
- Panel includes Professor Sir Al Ansley-Green, Professor Lord Richard Layard, Professor Judith Dunn, Professor Kathy Sylva, Shami Chakrabarti, Bishop Tim Stevens, Professor Kathleen Kiernan and Jim Davis
- Based on themes of friends, family, lifestyle, health, values and learning
- Evidence from academic research, professionals and children and young people



Educational attainment

- Overall rise in GCSE passes since introduction
- Overall increase in post 16 education
- But, 25% of 16 year olds leave with no GCSE grade C

Emotional and social competence

- Preparation for life beyond school
- Creating a better environment within school
- Focussing on children with poor sense of well being

Detailed study into rich countries of the world and their ranking according to children's well being.

Well being including material, educational, behavioural, family and health factors

UK faired badly, coming out bottom in children's own subjective view of well being, a key component of that assessment was whether children liked school



The
Children's
Society

What children and young people think

Well being, feeling safe and feeling valued can promote learning (Weare and Gray, 2003)

- Feeling valued connects to feeling listened to
- Children reported to the Inquiry that they often feel ignored or overlooked

A lot of our teachers think the comments we make about school are not important

I think we should have more say in what lessons we do

School does prepare you for life, like how unfair things can be, as a child you don't have much power over what happens in the world around you



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Disadvantage multiplied

JRF research into poverty and educational disadvantage

Considered the impact of low income and other disadvantage on attitude, expectation and therefore educational attainment.

Is life more unfair to some children than others?

Yes it is, It's unfair for us because we have to just listen to teachers all the time

But isn't that the same for all children?

No it's not. Because if you're rich you get to go to a posh school where the teachers probably teach you with respect

- Children and young people want to be respected
- Those who are already struggling appreciate it even more
- Being listened to and valued gives respect
- Authentic listening has value, token listening makes it worse
- Authenticating listening is what we do, The Children and Young People's Charter