

LEAD ADVISORY BOARD REPORT 2025 - 26: Pupil Voice

Advisory Board : Greystoke

Advisory Board Member : Paul Meredith

School link : Ronnie Richardson

Review of Academic Year 2025-2026

Aims

- To give students an opportunity to have their ideas and feedback heard, and their questions answered.
- To encourage pupil participation – be part of the solution, not just complain about the problem.
- To give leadership opportunities in a range of areas of school life.
- To increase pupil participation in aspects of wider school organization and their own areas of interest.
- Create regular opportunities for children to share their views with each other and school staff.

The voices of stakeholders at Greystoke School are essential to our school community. Therefore, their views and opinions are both valued and encouraged. Pupil voice is embedded into the culture and ethos of the school but there are always ongoing projects and initiatives.

Structures within school

- School council (Yr2-Yr6)/– run by Grace Walters
- Assemblies – Pupil Takeovers.
- Hot Chocolate with Headteacher/SLT.
- Well- being Box in each classroom.
- Every Year Six pupil has whole school responsibility ranging from librarians, Dining hall supervisors, ICT Ambassadors, and Sports Ambassadors overseen by James Cooper. They all have opportunities to choose their role and wear a named pin badge to identify them.
- Young Leaders Programme for Year Fives.
- Pupil questionnaires to gather ideas and opinions about curriculum topics.
- Children who have EHCP discuss their targets with their class teacher.
- Children with Statement of SEND share their views before the review meetings.
- The Greystoke Way' is now embedded in the School's practice and encourages children to articulate their views and knowledge of learning.
- Termly Exhibitions of Work

To continue the development of the following:

- Greystoke has developed a refined fingerprint model to each curriculum area with five key aims of each subject. Quizzes are now built in to subject assessments which children said that they enjoyed.
- There is a Pupil book Study three times a year in each subject, with a sample of six children where talk through what they have enjoyed, and what information that they have retained.
- Termly Exhibitions of Work

New initiatives for 2025-26

- Further development and embedding of The Greystoke Way into the school ethos and culture.
- All year round Nursery provision commencing April 2025.
- Continuation and development of the long term sustainability Plan.
- School Council to continue work on a Greystoke Project celebrating what the school does well.

What's working well

- The School Council is overseen by Grace Walters and the Advisory Board met the School's Council on their Engagement Day. They were a delightful group to chat with and they answered thoughtfully and eloquently on their role and work within the school. Grace has written a summary of their achievements so far this school year.

The School Council plays an active role in contributing to school life. Members have been responsible for organising cake sales for a variety of events throughout the year, including Red Nose Day and Children in Need, and have taken responsibility for initially counting the money raised. This has helped to develop their sense of responsibility and understanding of fundraising for charitable causes.

Children have also been given opportunities to discuss day-to-day aspects of school life and suggest changes they would like to see. Where appropriate and feasible, these ideas have been considered, including suggestions such as extending break times for particular year groups when completing important tasks, such as SATS, and introducing additional events such as book sales or book swap initiatives. This has enabled pupils to feel that their views are valued and taken seriously.

- ICT Ambassadors – Amrin Yakub & Ammaarah Iqbal

It has been a pleasure overseeing the ICT ambassadors and watching their leadership skills develop throughout the year. Our main focus has been supporting Key Stage 1 pupils in building confidence when using laptops, including logging on, developing typing skills, recognising programs, and using applications such as Dance Mat Typing, Scratch and Numbots. This has had a positive impact in classrooms, as pupils are now more confident and learning time is used more efficiently.

During Safer Internet Day, the ambassadors worked collaboratively to promote safe online behaviour, with a particular focus on the growing use of AI and how to use it responsibly. This linked well with Year 6's use of Adobe Express in their learning.

The ICT ambassadors have also led lunchtime clubs to support younger pupils and, during the autumn term, supported classes directly by helping children use laptops and log on independently.

Their leadership has really shone through their ability to plan and deliver computing club sessions, working as a team to decide weekly focuses and taking turns to lead. It has been a fantastic experience, and we look forward to developing this further next year.

We also wanted to add and highlight how brilliant Dance Mat Typing has been for our younger children, especially those in Year 1. Now that we have mixed-age classes in KS1, the differences in ability are much more noticeable, but we are incredibly proud of the confidence our Year 1 children have developed in understanding how to use a keyboard and logging in independently. This is preparing them well for next year, when they will become the role models for the new children as they move into Year 2. When planning Computing Club, we deliberately chose more Year 1 children than Year 2 and used our AFL to identify the children who would benefit most from extra practice outside of computing lessons. The ICT Ambassadors felt this was a fantastic idea because it allowed them to purposefully support the children who were least confident, which gave them a real sense of fulfillment and responsibility.

Looking ahead, we hope to have the opportunity next year to open Computing Club to all three phases. However, our main focus will continue to be Key Stage 1, as this is where digital literacy skills are often the least developed for obvious reasons.

- Young Leaders Programme (for Year Fives) A programme being undertaken by all schools in the trust which is a Discovery Trust initiative led by Alice Walker and Louise Garrett.

The aim is to empower young children to share their ideas and opinions, promoting and empowering pupil voice. The programme promotes leadership and the skills necessary to be an effective leader, helping children to consider and discuss the skills that are required. High profile child spokespersons, such as Greta Thunberg, are discussed, looking at how they have achieved success and change. The project then considers the changes that the children would like to enact to make a difference and the steps necessary to turn ideas into actions that result in change.

This begins on a personal challenge with family and friends, graduating to local changes and then national considerations. This year at a local level, the children researched local charities and then held a Name the Dragon competition to raise £200 for a local food bank. Thereby making a difference locally. The focus on the National Level has raised an amazing £8000 for LOROS through organising a Colour Run. Again, The Greystoke Children have helped to make a difference.

Finally when asked why adults should listen to the views and opinions of children, they drew up a super concise and pertinent list.

*In a world of busy adults
Small people can have big ideas.
Young people can make a big difference
Small people are the future leaders in society.*

- Welfare ambassadors –Karen Marriott & year 6 prefects.
- Sport ambassadors – James Cooper & Year 6 prefects.
- Playtimes & Lunchtime provision Happy Lunch now established and continuing to work well.
- Lunch time clubs are supported by Student Ambassadors (held once a week for 30 minutes)Lunchtime Clubs now include:
Choir, Gardening, Reading, Art, Colouring, alongside the successful sports and Fitness clubs run by Mr Cooper every day

It has been another good year building upon and consolidating successful initiatives from the past few years and more. Some initiatives to promote pupil voice are now firmly embedded in school practice allowing for consideration of different projects and programmes reflecting community, local and national participation in making a difference.

Through the guidance, support and experiences that are planned collaboratively by able, motivated and enthusiastic teacher leads, Greystoke has embarked on an ambitious, impressive and exciting empowerment programme to promote Pupil Voice.

Well done and thank you to the amazing Greystoke Team and the wonderful Greystoke children!

