

I was delighted to see the weather report that indicated that the return to school was likely to be a whole lot warmer than the weather we have all endured over the Easter break. And for young people with autism it has enabled us to throw open the doors, use the outside areas for Outdoor Learning, all of which assists with the somewhat painful process of transitioning from a comfortable home environment. To be honest the young people weren't the only ones to benefit, as all staff have mentioned a certain tiredness from being back into a routine of early morning starts.

We have had visitors this week from Edinburgh University who have been gathering the thoughts of young people and staff in Meadowpark on the updated legislation for children with a disability which can be found by accessing this link:

<http://enquire.org.uk/3175/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/childrens-rights-to-education-and-additional-support-in-education-1.pdf>

This legislation was passed in January and was referred to in the lead up to the follow up Inspection and has been used as the focus for discussion for Edinburgh University Research. Although we have been made aware of this legislation there appears to be a lack of consistency in how this impacts on young people with an additional support need and guidance from Government to local authorities and then on to schools and parents as to how we take this forward.

Many of our young people have an inherent sense of their rights or at the very least what feels right for them, and this is communicated verbally and through behaviours and actions. We have mechanisms in place to assist understanding and communication and provide an individualised and progressive education through the East Lothian Curriculum frameworks. One of our biggest challenges is listening to and accommodating the huge variance in need of our young people in line with the myriad of learning systems, procedures, records, tracking and data collection that is required. It is essential that we strive to get it right for all our young people and continuing to develop our awareness knowledge and experience of the well-being indicators - SHANARRI - <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0043/00438640.jpg> helps to give us the structure and vocabulary needed. As teachers and parents we also have a responsibility to signpost our young people towards official websites that can provide more detailed answers, for example Reach <https://reach.scot/> and <https://reach.scot/get-help/rights-support-school/> as well as Enquire <http://enquire.org.uk/>.

Yesterday afternoon I joined a committee meeting whose members intend to collaborate on preparing and submitting bids for Area Partnership funding. Through the course of discussion it emerged that a small number of pupils lead by support for learning staff have been gardening not only at Amisfield but in Knox Academy grounds, however they are running out of space. I make no bones about the fact that I have a vision for Meadowpark to have its own sustainable community garden and so we will be working together to create what I hope will be a robust and successful bid that will enable us to bring in the diggers and create a garden that can be used not only by mainstream and Meadowpark pupils but the wider community. Any support in this is greatly received.

Charli Prime 20.04.18