

# Perceptions of **Pupil Voice** in Primary Schools: a Summary

In 2023/24, we spoke with 34 primary school pupils as part of our evaluation of the Whole School Approach to Emotional and Mental Wellbeing and asked them about pupil voice activities in their school and their perceptions of how effective they were. This is a summary of what they said.

**Pupils across primaries were aware of pupil voice groups within their schools and understood their remits.** They listed groups such as school parliaments, school councils, eco groups, Welsh champions, wellbeing committees and communication groups. Several pupils linked the purpose of these groups to promoting Children's Rights in schools.



**Pupils described many different functions of the groups in their schools** - some were aimed at making changes in the school, others were aimed at fundraising, either for charities like Children in Need, or for the schools themselves.



**Several pupils noted positive changes** happening in their schools as a result of pupil voice activities, such as changes to recycling and more playing equipment for the playground. Those involved in pupil voice groups usually enjoyed taking part.



Some pupils felt that suggestions were not often acted on by staff. Some reflected that although they were encouraged to talk with their peers about making changes in the school, the changes they suggested were not acted upon by senior staff.



**Barriers to pupil voice effectiveness and reach** included a lack of funding to implement pupils' ideas, and perceptions that selection of pupil voice members was not always representative

