

A Children's Charter for School Age Childcare in Aberdeen



A Children's Charter for Aberdeen

In November 2022, a group of us from Kingsford Primary School were joined by A Place in Childhood and the Scottish Government to talk about the Best Out of School Club possible. Our group represented the whole school, from P1-7!

To start the day, we talked about what it's like in Sheddocksley, which is the area of Aberdeen we live in. We then designed a short tour of some important local places for young people and took our adult facilitators to show them. We took photos and a video of our journey. This helped us to think about the places our Club might use.

The next thing we did was talk about who would be the best person to run the Best Out of School Club and why. We drew pictures and wrote down all the qualities of the best person.

After this, we talked about what activities we would do, and discussed how this might be different after school, on the weekends and during the school holidays. We also talked about why the Club was important for us and our community, and some important things we would also have to think about to make sure it was the best.

Below is a record of everything we talked about. This is our Children's Charter for Aberdeen!

WHAT activities could we do in the Best Out of School Club?

The options and activities we'd want for our Club, include:

- Gaming - including Fortnite, Minecraft and VR. An option we'd want weekdays, weekends and holidays. Our most popular overall activity.
- Chilling with friends - such as a lazy room for relaxing, chatting or watching TV.
- Sports clubs - football, rugby, netball and basketball came top for us
- Exercise clubs - particularly swimming, but also running and gymnastics.
- Martial Arts - including boxing and other martial arts.
- Learning - we'd like to learn useful stuff like how to build things, how to cook or bake, or maths and science projects.
- Arts, crafts and music - options to improve and express our creative skills, have fun, and relax on weeknights too.
- Indoor activities and games - particularly during weekdays and weekends, we'd like options to have fun indoors like bowling, pool, board games and dodgeball, or a toy or party room.
- Outdoor activities - when we have more time at the weekends, where options include going to the park, playing outside, climbing trees, gardening, or nature projects.
- Adventure - at the weekends or on holidays the best activities for many of us is to get out into the wilds for some adventure, such as hiking, rock-climbing, camping or even skiing.
- Trips - our most popular thing to do during our Holiday Club, particularly going to the beach in summer.
- Eating - good food, snacks and a tuck shop are important - a mix of treats and healthy - but particularly for energy between school and after school activities.
- Relaxing - we always want opportunities to relax, such as to have a nap or a good rest, or play with our phones or watch Youtube.
- Family time - some of us want quality time with our parents, grandparents or siblings at weekends or over the holidays.

WHEN would we do the different types of activities in the Best Out of School Club?

- On weekdays, we'd prefer ways of chilling out with our friends or activities where we don't need to think too hard or can just let off steam. These include video gaming, playing indoor or outdoor games, music, arts and crafts, sports, martial arts, or just lazing and watching TV. Good snacks are vital, but shouldn't interfere with our dinner.
- On weekends, we have more energy and would like to get outdoors or go to the park for play and adventure, to learn something useful, or improve our sports skills and fitness. We would still want indoor options like on weekdays.
- During the school holidays, we'd love to go on longer trips for adventure and to visit new places, such as going camping, rock-climbing or hiking, but most of all to spend time at the beach. We'd also want the options we have on weekdays and weekends.

WHO would run the Best Out of School Club?

The best person would...

- Involve us in planning and running our Club.
- Be honest, trustworthy and caring.
- Keep you safe and help you if you're hurt.
- Respect all children.
- Set clear boundaries.
- Make us feel good about ourselves.
- Be fair, kind, calm and never shout.
- Be clever and smart and always know what to do.
- Be good at everything, and able to teach us new things and introduce us to new experiences.
- A good listener, who understands and considers each child's views, thoughts and needs.
- Challenge us.
- Let me decide what I do, but help me decide if I'm not sure.
- Keep an eye on everyone and stop bullying or rule-breaking right away.
- Never throw anyone out of the club, punishments are 'time out' only.

- Never be stubborn.
- Be organised and careful.
- Be genuinely interested in me and be a good friend to me.
- Be fun, funny, silly, cheerful, cheeky and optimistic.
- Be good at cleaning and fixing things.
- Be confident and strong.

They'd also:

- Be someone who could look after animals.
- Be good at the thing they're teaching, e.g. planting, basketball, or golf.
- Have the best qualities of our family members: mums, dads, siblings and grandparents.
- Know or be a part of the community, so they are familiar to us.

Our suggestions include:

- A team involving different people with a range of skills
- Including us in the running of the club. We think some of us would be really good at it. Have 'guest' leaders who are good at it. Have 'guest' leaders who are good fun or who could come and teach us about a thing we're interested in like Mike Tyson, Elon Musk, Cristiano Ronaldo, Mr Beast, Ant and Dec, a rock star or Youtube influencer

WHY would children and young people go to the Best Out of School Club?

Our Club would:

- Be important to our parents/carers who may need to work or study longer hours than our school time lasts, or during weekends and holidays, some of whom may not otherwise be able to afford the costs.
- Take the pressure and hassle off our grandparents and other family members looking after us when our parents/carers can't.
- Be helpful for children of families where a member is ill or disabled.
- Give our families and us a break from each other and more time to do things on our own or with friends.
- Welcome all children who have support needs with kindness, and understanding of what they can and can't do, providing choices which mean they can join in and never feel left out or different.
- Provide local children with opportunities for fun, new experiences, and learning while hanging out with their friends.



If children weren't sure about coming, here's what we'd say to persuade them:

- There's so much stuff to do.
- You get to hang out and talk to people.
- You're missing out if you don't come.
- You get to do stuff with others, rather than on your own at home.
- You might get lonely if you don't come.
- Your friends go, and you'll get to do new things with them.
- You can play games and do stuff that you never would at school.
- We get to make the choices about what to do and the rules are very relaxed.
- Instead of playing a game on your phone, come and play together with friends.
- Do something fun and productive.
- Would you rather do schoolwork or have fun?
- Would you enjoy a club where you have some control over the activities?
- Put down your phone and come and play.
- You don't have to do work.
- You'll make new friends.

If parents were sure about us coming, here's how we'd persuade them:

- It's really close.

- It's a safe family environment.
- It doesn't cost much at all.
- They'll pick me up and drop me off after, so no hassle for you.
- If anything did happen to me, they have your number and would call you right away.
- You'll get some free time. You could have a nap.
- I'd get some healthy exercise and food.
- You're always telling me to get off my phone, well here's an opportunity.
- You won't have to worry about where I am or what I'm doing.

Other important things to think about for our Club

Other important considerations for Our Club are:

- The main hub of our Club should be central so it is easy to get to, but it could use a lot of different places.
- We'd need to advertise it well in local shops and other places.
- We need to be realistic about what we can and can't do, so other clubs get the same opportunities as us.
- It would need to work around our other out of school activities and clubs.
- Staff would need training to work with children who are disabled.
- Transport would be great, and it should be good for disabled children too.
- Parents should be able to drop us off at different times, and there would need to be a waiting room for them when they come to pick us up.
- The food and snacks should be healthy but also involve treats.



WHERE might the Best Out of School Club take place

Places the club could be or take us to and why

- Sheddocksley Woods for playing, den building, climbing and animals (hedgehogs, badgers, deer, squirrels, foxes).
- Fields for play, and to see sheep (and other animals).
- Football pitches.
- Community Garden for gardening, food growing, flowers, nature (toads) and playing.
- Sheddocksley Sports Centre for football, basketball and other stuff (can do anything in the hall).
- Eric Hendrie Park and Playpark.
- Community Centre for Tuesday club (pre-Covid), boxing, playroom S.
- Co-op Sheddocksley Park, for play park, including climbing wall and bug slide.
- School including playground and sports hall.
- Gerrard's Garden.

Local Things we'd like to see improved

- Litter - broken glass and rubbish makes feel sad.
- Gets wrecked by teens.
- Dangerous road to cross.

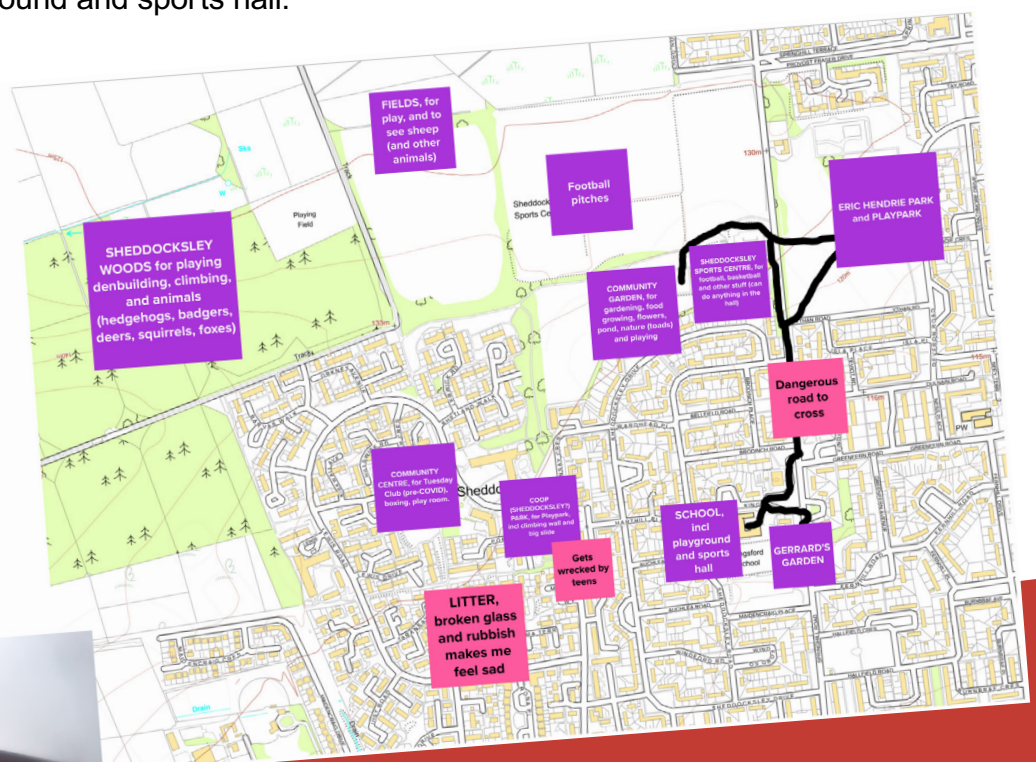


Key

Our Tour Route

Places the club could be or take us to and why

Local Things we'd like to see improved



School and Sports Hall





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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at

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