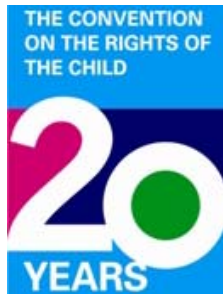


First Tower Hamlets Primary School Council Conferences
giving all primary school children the opportunity to have a
voice in local government.

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First Primary School Voice Conferences for All of Tower Hamlets

Dear Headteacher,

Please find enclosed an invitation to your school council to send three delegates to the Town Hall at the beginning of next term. This is the first time in Tower Hamlets that all primary schools have been invited to take part in expressing their children's voices to local government.

Your school will be meeting with delegates from other schools in your local LAP to discuss issues important to the children. They will take part in workshops run by local secondary school councillors, and will hold a debate and a set of votes in the Council Debating Chamber.

There will be parallel sessions for the accompanying primary school council link teachers, and we will be encouraging them to join a network for support and sharing across Tower Hamlets.

The children's views will be input into the second Young Mayor's Tower Hamlets conference on Saturday 13th February (your children do not need to attend).

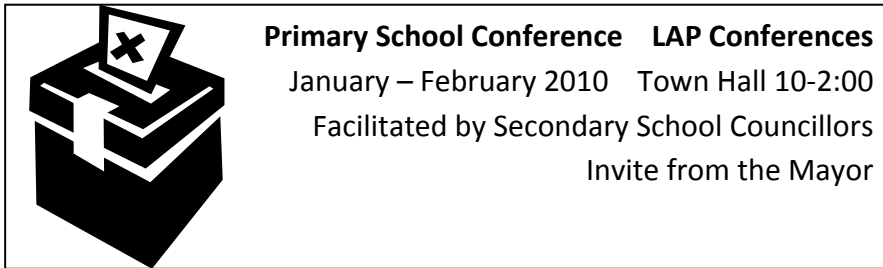
I look forward to receiving your reply, just fax back the attached invoice.

We would like the school councils, if time allows, to discuss and propose issues important to them in the Borough, what they would like to see changed/improved in their community. It would be great for them to discuss this and bring with them ideas/proposals for the Town Hall conference (a suggested activity is attached though a simple brainstorming and vote would be just as good).

We also include a 'Democratic Declaration' that we are hoping primary school councils will discuss, vote on and send back to us. It will then be framed and placed on the Fair Play wall in the Town Hall. This can be brought to the Town Hall event, or if there is not time sent to us afterwards.

Best wishes

Michael Newman
Schools Project Worker for Active Global Citizenship



Dear Primary School Councillors,

I am delighted to invite you to attend the first set of local conferences in Tower Hamlets to allow young people, aged under 11, to express their views through their primary school councils.

You will be able to send 3/4 delegates to your local conference, and they will be joined by children from the other schools in your LAP. The conferences will be supported by school councillors from one of your local secondary schools.

This will allow you to express the views of your school students about local issues and problems, and to help create a structure that will ensure these views are fed into local government. This is part of the aims of the Young Mayor and her team, with the help of Tower Hamlets Youth Participation Team and the Humanities Education Centre. It is also a vital part of the Borough working with its young people.

As the first Somali Mayor outside Somalia I am very proud that the conferences will be celebrating its great poetry tradition.

As a culture that was based on the spoken word, Somalia, held its poets as heroes. Poetry was used for making speeches to encourage people to change things in their local areas, or nationally. The mini conferences will show how poetry can help with making speeches and persuading people to act locally to improve their community and world.

I hope to see you at the event, and wish you success as one elected representative to another.

The Right Hon Mayor

Councillor Ahmed Omer

PS Please bring your support teacher, they will have a training session on working with local government and sustainability.



Local Primary School Town Hall Conferences

Historic Invite

We invite your primary schools, on behalf of the Young Mayor, to take part in an historic mini-conference to start expressing their voices to local government.

Responding to a Need

The Young People's Plan, and Every Child Matters, has a very strong component of building children's voice into local decision-making. Though there has been ongoing training support and events for primary school councils at Tower Hamlets Town Hall there has not been a specific structure for allowing primary school children to input into local government except meeting their local councillors or the Mayor.

Creating a New Structure

The secondary schools have the Young Mayor, who this year is creating conferences, a charter and support for the voices of young people aged over 11. To feed into this structure the voices of primary school children we are organising a series of mini-conferences of groups of primary schools and their support teachers, supported by a local secondary school.

Young Mayor's Conferences

The first ever Tower Hamlets Secondary School Council Conference was held during Local Democracy Week, 16th October 2009, with all but one school attending, organised by the Young Mayor's team. The second conference is planned for February 13th 2010. The Young Mayor's have asked for mini-conferences so that primary school children can express their views for the second conference.

Primary School Mini-Conferences

The aims of the mini-conferences are: 1. A training session for the children. 2. A session for school councils to raise local issues important to them that can be fed into the Laps and the Young Mayors Conference in Feb 2010. 3. Training sessions for the support teachers.

A draft programme for the day conferences is:

Time	Activity for children	Activity for teachers
10-10:15	Welcome and globe bingo	Coffee and network
10:15-11:15	Expressing views & representing others.	Support children
11:15-11:30	Fairtrade Break	Fairtrade Break
11:30-12:00	Priorities for change - what issues are important and why.	Your school council, sustainability and local government – tools, whole school approach with the school council, working with local government
12:00-12:30	Sustainability and making decisions	
12:30-1:00	Lunch – bring packed lunch	
1:00 – 2:00	Local issues debate and vote - with guests from the LAP	

Peer Training from Secondary Schools

The sessions will be supported by secondary school councillors from a key school in the LAP, who will be trained before the event. This is based on previous work with Langdon Park, St Pauls Way and George Green's Schools.

Local Children's Issues

The issues raised by the children will be the focus of their poetry exercise and the decision making activity on sustainability (based on work done previously with schools and the Tower Hamlets Sustainability Officer).

Preparation for the Mini-conferences

Prior to each conference there is one activity that primary school councils will be asked to do:

1. discuss and vote on local issues the children have for their area (see activity sheet).

We would also be delighted if they could bring or send us the Democratic Declaration, but due to time we realise this may not be possible and encourage the council to do it after the event:

2. discuss and vote on a 'Democratic Declaration' which will be framed and placed on the Fair Play Wall at the Town Hall to recognise and celebrate the work school councils want to do with local government and

Dates of Conferences

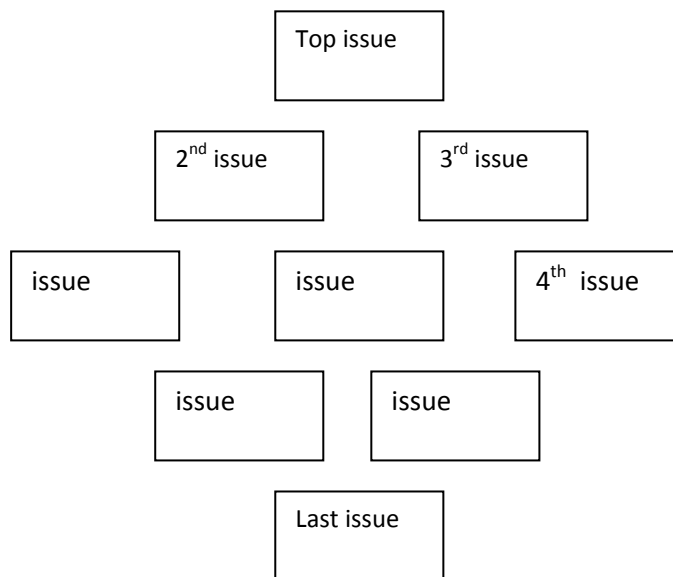
Lap	Date	Secondary School Students facilitating
7	11 th Jan 2010	Langdon Park
8	12 th Jan 2010	George Greens
3&4	1 st Feb 2010	Bishop Challoner
5&6	4 th Feb 2010	Central Foundation
1&2	8 th Feb 2010	Morpeth

This set of conferences is funded by the Borough and facilitated by the Humanities Education Centre.

For further details and queries contact Michael.newman@towerhamlets.gov.uk
tel: 020 7364 6405 Humanities Education Centre, PDC, English Street, London E3 4TA

Issues Important to Your School Council

1. Brainstorm what local issues are important to the councillors. Write them on the board.
2. From the list the council choose nine to discuss further, by agreement or vote.
3. write/print the nine on separate sheets of A4. Split the council into small groups (3/4 children). Create a set of the issues for each group.
4. in small groups the children discuss and place the nine issues into a pyramid with the most important on top, then the next two underneath and then three, and two and the least important at the bottom (see below)



5. Each group presents their top three choices with reasons why they are important and should be proposed as issues to Local Government.
6. All of the presented issues are listed on the board and the council votes for the ones they want to bring to the conference. Each school can bring two issues to the conference.
7. The school council elects delegates to attend the primary school council conference and to take the two main issues, with their reasons.
8. The elected delegates will have a chance in the morning of the conference to create presentations on their issues.

The aim of this activity is to maximise the involvement of all members of the school council, but a simple brainstorming, with thinking time, discussion in pairs and then a debate with voting on the priorities maybe quicker and simpler.

Your Primary School Council are invited to send delegates (3) to:

The First Tower Hamlets Young Mayor's Primary School Council LAP Conferences

10-2:00 Town Hall Mulberry Place

A day of activities at the Town Hall for your school council delegates (3) to discuss, present and vote on issues important to them in the Borough.

For the first time a set of conferences will allow ALL primary schools in Tower Hamlets to express their views on local issues important to them. There will be parallel sessions for the accompanying Primary School Council Link teachers.

These conferences follow-on from the highly successful first secondary school council conference organised in November.

All the decisions made by your young school councillors will be fed into the next Young Mayors Conference on Feb 13th 2010.

Please fax back as soon as possible the form below.

For further details or queries e-mail Michael.newman@towerhamlets.gov.uk or tel 020 7364 6405.

Fax for Attention of Michael Newman, Humanities Education Centre

Name of School:

LAP area:

Number of Delegates:

Teacher Contact:

Teacher e-mail:

Teacher tel:

Tick Conf. Attending	LAP Area	Dates of Conference	Secondary School Students Facilitating
<input type="checkbox"/>	7* (*Poplar Partnership Schools included)	11 th Jan 2010	Langdon Park
<input type="checkbox"/>	8	12 th Jan 2010	George Greens
<input type="checkbox"/>	3&4	1 st Feb 2010	Bishop Challoner
<input type="checkbox"/>	5&6	4 th Feb 2010	Central Foundation
<input type="checkbox"/>	1&2	8 th Feb 2010	Morpeth

Fax to: Michael Newman, Humanities Education Centre 020 7364 6422