

Improving Gender Balance

Big Me

The following document provides a brief summary of the key elements of this project.

1. Introduction

Establishment / title	Ravenswood Primary School / The Big Me
Contact name and details	Laura Simpson Ravenswood Primary School, Tiree Road, Cumbernauld, Glasgow, G67 1NR
About the establishment	Ravenswood Primary is a non-denominational, co-educational, establishment providing education from primary one to primary seven. Its current role is just under 200 pupils.
Main tags	Primary Employability Gender balance Equalities and inclusion Parents

2. Project information:

Overview	<p>The Big Me</p> <p>The Big Me is a short programme focussed on gender equality. It provides a starting point for discussions around gender stereotypes and career choice for pupils, teachers and parents.</p> <p>It initially ran over two days in May. The whole staff took the “Animal Me” quiz on Skills Development Scotland’s My World of Work website. Next, all pupils took the same quiz, as a prompt for discussions about peoples’ similarities, skills and strengths.</p> <p>These steps led into a programme of activities that included:</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Circle time activity which involved considering true and false statements around gender stereotypes. - Drawing a firefighter, surgeon etc to see what pupils' expectations were of the gender of people who might do these jobs. - An online survey for parents with questions such as "who would make the best stay at home parent?" - "Job hunt" through the town centre where pupils interviewed members of the public and local business workers about their jobs. - A "Dress as the job you want" day where pupils dressed up to represent different jobs. Staff also took part and dressed as something countering the prevailing gender stereotype (e.g. female staff dressed as builders). - Photos of pupils holding a sign displaying the job they want to do when they grow up. This included nursery children on their transition day. - Homework plan included asking pupils to watch a video on gender equality with their families at home.
Impact	<p>The Big Me week acted as a launch for more continued work on gender balance. Since the focus week, members of staff have increasingly been weaving gender balance into their learning and teaching. For example, older pupils completed their piece of persuasive writing on the gender pay gap and their PSE lessons include discussion of the portrayal of women in the media.</p> <p>This activity links well to the continuing work on growth mind-sets within the school. Practitioners also see it as being a good way to make the curriculum more relevant to pupils. Finally, the school celebrated International Women's Day (8th March) for the first time this year.</p> <p>Staff said: "Every learner feels valued and celebrated, not just for their academic achievements but also for their skills and strengths.</p> <p>"Pupils have a stronger understanding of their own skills and abilities and how this links with the world of work. They now understand that gender should not be a barrier to choice or success."</p>
Next steps	<p>The school plan to run Big Me again but at the start of the academic year. This will enable all staff, including new colleagues, to come together to plan further</p>

	<p>interventions in gender balance.</p> <p>The school plans to re-run the online survey on Twitter with parents. Staff will follow up on this at a 'gender balance' open day, to promote further parental engagement</p> <p>The school also intends to re-take the pupils' photos with their intended job and monitor changes in intentions, from a gender perspective, over time.</p>
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3. Additional information

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