

## What children and young people say:

### Post-primary transfer in 2009/10:<sup>18</sup>

"I would like the adults who are doing this to think. Do they even know how much pressure they put on us? It was enough pressure before all this – now it's even more".

"They just said "we know what's best for kids. They'll think this is fine". I don't think they asked a single kid – they didn't even ask the old kids who had done it or were going to do it".

### Participation in school and school councils<sup>19</sup>

"A couple of years ago we got rid of blazers and got fleeces, this year we got to design our coats. It had to be the school colours and have the crest on it but was pretty much up to us. We have a good say in school; we can choose where the money goes – music, sport, like what instruments or what sports stuff is needed".

"School council is a sham – we don't get our say".

# Make it right... ..act now!

## References

- <sup>1</sup> Report to be published late September 2010.
- <sup>2</sup> <http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/85-about-the-dept.htm>.
- <sup>3</sup> OFMdfM (2006) Our Children and Young People – Our Pledge: A Ten Year Strategy for Children and Young People in NI, (Belfast: OFMdfM).
- <sup>4</sup> DE (2009a) Report of the Literacy and Numeracy Taskforce 2008/09, (Bangor: DE).
- <sup>5</sup> NICCY (2008) Children's Rights: Rhetoric or Reality, A Review of Children's Rights in NI, (Belfast: NICCY).
- <sup>6</sup> DE (2009b) Every School a Good School: A Policy for School Improvement, (Bangor: DE).
- <sup>7</sup> Save the Children (2009) A Child's Portion: An Analysis of Public Expenditure on Children in the UK. NI Briefing, (Belfast: Save the Children).
- <sup>8</sup> Economic Research Institute for NI (2007) An Analysis of Public Expenditure on Children in NI, (Belfast: NICCY, Department for Finance and Personnel, OFMdfM).
- <sup>9</sup> Save the Children (2009).
- <sup>10</sup> Schubotz, D. and Sinclair, R. (2006) Being Part and Parcel of the School – The Views and Experiences of Children and Young People in Relation to the Development of Bullying Policies in Schools, (Belfast: NICCY).
- <sup>11</sup> NICCY (2007) "Having Your Say": Guidance for School Councils, (Belfast: NICCY).
- <sup>12, 13</sup> Save the Children (2009).
- <sup>14</sup> UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2002) Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child: United Kingdom, (Geneva: UN).
- <sup>15</sup> [http://www.myschoolcouncil.info/scuk\\_content/for\\_free/Benefits%20of%20school%20councils/scuk\\_for\\_free](http://www.myschoolcouncil.info/scuk_content/for_free/Benefits%20of%20school%20councils/scuk_for_free).
- <sup>16</sup> Re An Application by Robert McMillen, Chairman of the Board of Governors of Ballyclare High School [2008] NIQB 21, para 48.
- <sup>17</sup> DE (2009b).
- <sup>18</sup> Quotes from NICCY's consultation with pupils on their views and experiences of transfer in 2010, report to be published late September.
- <sup>19</sup> Quotes from NICCY (2008) Children's Rights: Rhetoric or Reality, A Review of Children's Rights in NI, (Belfast: NICCY).

For more copies of this briefing, or the campaign briefing, please call us by Minicom on **028 9031 6393**, or by using the Relay Services to contact NICCY's telephone number **028 9031 1616** or email us on: [uncrc@niccy.org](mailto:uncrc@niccy.org)

For more information on NICCY's campaign please visit: [www.niccy.org/makeitright](http://www.niccy.org/makeitright)

**NICCY**

Northern Ireland Commissioner  
for Children and Young People



CERTIFIED  
**CARBON  
NEUTRAL**  
publication

*John Marks*  
CarbonNeutral.com  
CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduced to  
net zero in accordance with  
The CarbonNeutral Protocol

Please contact the  
Communications team  
at NICCY if you require  
alternative formats of  
this material.