



## **Involving and Consulting Children**

PopSOC is enthusiastic about the principle of involving and consulting the children regarding issues within the club.

### **Purposes of consultation**

PopSOC believes that actively promoting the participation of children in decision-making processes is beneficial to children, staff and the club as a whole. PopSOC recognise the benefits this approach holds to the club, such as the improved atmosphere that having a club customised by and for the children inevitably brings.

Involvement and consultation help children to develop new skills such as negotiation, sharing and understanding perspectives and ideas other than their own. It helps them to understand how decisions are made and helps them to recognise the important factors within decision-making, such as opinions, practical matters, legalities and finances.

The children are encouraged to take responsibility for the club and, through doing so, can begin to realise that their behaviour directly affects the club and its atmosphere.

### **Underlying principle of consultation**

PopSOC's commitment to involving and consulting children stems from the 'Listening To Children' provisions set out in Articles 12 and 13 of the United Nations Convention On The Rights Of The Child. These state that:-

- ∇ A child's opinion should be taken into account in anything that affects them.
  
- ∇ Children should have information disseminated in a way that enables them to make choices and decisions.

### **Consultation of children at PopSOC**

All children will be listened to and consulted actively. This will take a number of forms, including:-

- ∇ Listening to what the children say
- ∇ Observing body language and behaviour
  
- ∇ Drama and role play
  
- ∇ Play and creative expression, with visual aids where required
  
- ∇ Group-based discussions and Question And Answer sessions
  
- ∇ Questionnaires and other feedback on activities
  
- ∇ Notice boards that both carry information about activities at PopSOC and that children can pin their suggestions on to
  
- ∇ A 'Suggestion Box'
  
- ∇ Groups of children interviewing prospective members of staff and taking part in the decision-making regarding employment
  
- ∇ Children assisting in the planning of the snack menu and activities.

Consultation and involvement will be regularly monitored and acted upon to enable children to see that their input has led to visible outcomes. PopSOC and its playworkers will also give clear and comprehensible explanations if consultation and involvement is deemed inappropriate .

Policy written October 2008

Policy agreed