

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

East Sussex Pupils “takeover” Children’s Commissioner’s office

Pupils from Guestling-Bradshaw Primary School in Hastings have taken over the office of the Children’s Commissioner as part of a national event to encourage young people to get involved in decision making.

The pupils from the school were invited to takeover the office of Sir Al Aynsley-Green as part of the national 11 Million Takeover Day on Friday last week (7 November).

The event, which involves hundreds of organisations and individuals across the country, is organised by the Children’s Commissioner for England and gets children to work alongside adults to make a change and get involved in decision-making.

Eleven pupils from years 5 and 6 and from the school council at Guestling-Bradshaw Primary School were invited up to London where they spent the day learning more about the role of the Children’s Commissioner.

They were hosted by Sue Berelowitz, the Deputy Children’s Commissioner for England, and among the activities they took part in was checking diary invites that had come in for Sir Al Aynsley-Green and deciding which ones he should attend and why.

Head teacher of Guestling Bradshaw Primary School, Caroline Weston, said the pupils had enjoyed a fantastic day: “They thoroughly enjoyed going to London to such an

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important office where they really were treated very well. They also gained a real understanding of what the Children's Commissioner does and how he is the voice of children and young people."

Sue Berelowitz said: "All of us at 11 MILLION want to thank the pupils at Guestling-Bradshaw Primary School for taking over our office on Takeover Day and for telling us what's important to them. Takeover Day is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate children and young people in our society and to give them the chance to make a positive contribution. The pupils views and ideas will be used in the development of our long-term work plan. What they told us will help the Children's Commissioner and 11 MILLION to focus on the issues that really matter to children and young people during our work with them up and down the country."

Ends

Notes for editors

For more information contact Caroline Weston at Guestling-Bradshaw Primary School on 01424 812279.

For more information about the 11 Million Takeover Day contact Denise Malcolm on 0844 800 9113.

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