

# A Children's Charter for School Age Childcare in YELL



# A Children's Charter for Yell

**In December 2022, the upper primary class of Mid Yell Junior High were joined by A Place in Childhood and Scottish Government to talk about the Best Out of School Club possible.**

To start off with, we talked about what it's like in Yell and the Shetland Islands, looking at three big maps and thinking about all the important places. We then designed a tour of Mid Yell and took our adult facilitators on the tour. We took photos and a video of our journey. This helped us to think about where the Best Out of School Club could take place in our local community. Next, we talked about who would be the best person to run the Best Out of School Club and why. We drew pictures and wrote down all the qualities of the best person.

After this, we talked about what activities we would do, and discussed how this might be different after school, on the weekends and during the school holidays. We also talked about the kind of trips we could do on the weekends and holidays.

After that, we took everything we'd done and talked about why the Best Out of School Club could be needed by us and our parents/carers, and how we might convince other people to join it with us. We recorded some business pitches for 'Fun Days at Yell' and thought about how we could fund the club and make sure everyone is included. Finally, a group of us showed everything we'd done to the lower primary class for their feedback. They agreed with us and also included one more consideration for the club.

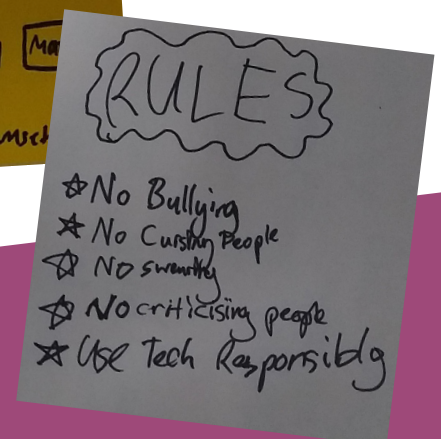
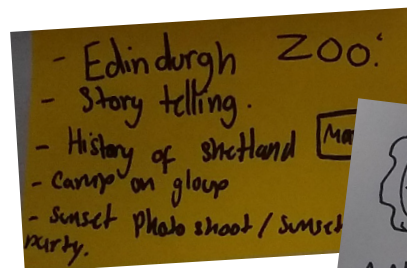
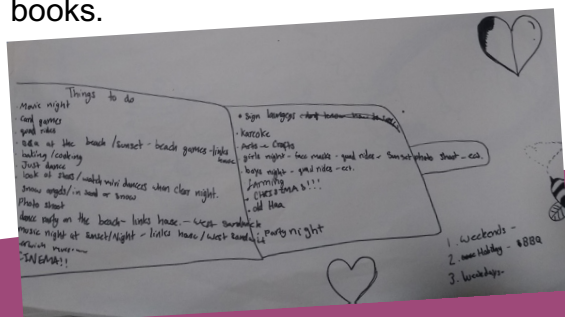
Below is a note of everything we talked about and agreed. This is our Children's Charter!

# WHAT activities could we do in the Best Out of School Club?

## We would like to be able to:

- **Chillout** - read, eat, draw, watch TV and films, nap etc.
- **Play games and sports** - football, basketball, netball, trampolining, and badminton. We'd like tasters of activities you can't normally do on Yell like darts, archery and fencing.
- **Visit local places to get food or make food** - The Hilltop Shop, and fishing followed by a BBQ, as well as baking.
- **Play with animals and learn how to look after them** - we'd love an animal club, fishing and horse riding, and learning about the natural world (e.g. how birds fly).
- **Lots of outdoor activities** - horse riding, stargazing, kayaking, going to the park, visiting islands, fishing, walking, swimming, camping, visiting beaches to chillout or play football, and treasure hunting with a metal detector. We'd love to connect these activities up into trips and adventures!
- **Grow plants, flowers and food.**
- **Go on trips** - museums, beaches, camping, island visits, activity centres, crilling, visiting Lerwick to go to the cinema and get ice cream, take a trip on and learn about the Charisma boat (a pelagic boat), going to Mainland UK to learn about farming in Yorkshire or visit Edinburgh Zoo.
- **Meet new people** and/or have a space to be with people that have the same interest or experience, like animals, science, or books.
- **Arts and expressive arts** - drama, singing, crafts, playing instruments (guitar, saxophone, flute, drums, clarinet), filmmaking, puppetry and drawing.
- **Storytelling!**
- **Game together** - online and offline. The club should also be able to provide electronic devices to children so they can play games with their friends.
- **Build things** - online and offline. We'd like to learn woodwork and make fences, forts, and other useful or interesting things.
- **Learn new skills** - languages (such as Norwegian, German, and Mandarin), budgeting, general life skills, martial arts, coding, skiing, fixing things, tying knots in rope, quad biking, body building, and business.
- **Making a difference through projects** - We loved our heritage project where we learnt stories from the community and wrote these down to preserve them for the future. We also want to do other things that make a difference to our community.

We drew some ideas for Fun Days at Yell and thought about the rules, timetable, transport, and food. Below are some of our ideas



# WHEN would we do different types of activities in the Best Out of School Club?

On **weekdays**, we thought it would just be good to rest and chillout. We don't have very much time and we're tired after school. The club would run 4-7pm for upper primary and until 5:30pm for lower primary.

On **weekends**, we'd like to be able to have a lie in and start activities later than the school day starts, so we propose 11am-4pm. We'd be interested to learn new types of things in a fun way. That could be languages, cooking, looking after animals, gardening etc. Some local trips could also be good.

During the **school holidays**, we think it would be good to learn fun and creative things like at the weekend, but we especially want to go on trips. We could even go away overnight or for a few days!

Pupils in lower primary also thought we should think about whether the club might be able to have sleepovers, for when our parents/carers have to go on work trips overnight.

# HOW would we run the Best Out of School Club?

## Funding Fun Days in Yell

We want everyone to come, so we only accept payments on payday. We also take donations, apply for grants and sell crafts, fish, and things we've cooked and baked to fund the club for everyone.

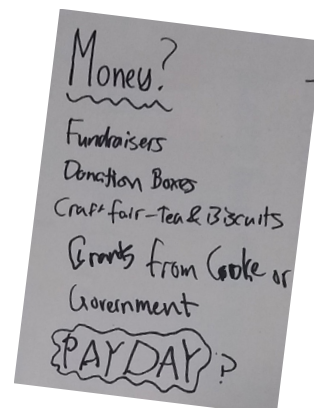
If your family can't afford to pay, that's OK! The only person that will know is the childcare leader and you will be included in everything.

## The Food at Fun Days in Yell

We'll have a range of food, which is balanced and will have treats but only sugary drinks on special occasions. We will make sure there is food for people who are vegetarian or can't eat gluten.

## Promoting Fun Days in Yell

We'll put up posters in the school, leisure centre, and community halls. We'll also put information up on social media like Facebook so parents know about it.





# WHO would run the Best Out of School Club?

## The Best Person would be...

- Trustworthy and caring, and able to help you if you're hurt or having trouble with something.
- Fair, respect children and have clear boundaries and rules for what's OK and what's not. These rules would need to include not laughing at folk, no bullying, use technology responsibly, no hitting, and no swearing.
- Kind-hearted.
- A good team player – we think the club would be better run by a small group working together. For example, older children might lead some activities, with an adult in charge. We also think elderly people could help with activities, but maybe shouldn't have full responsibility as it might be too much work for them, although they have a lot of knowledge and experience to share.
- Good at making other people feel good about themselves.
- Courageous – good at keeping everyone and everything safe.
- Kind, calm and never mean.
- Not stubborn and be good at including everyone.
- Genuinely interested in you!
- Organised, careful and good at cleaning.
- Helpful, smart and cool.
- Fun, funny, cheerful and optimistic.
- Be good at everything (or know people that can come and share skills they don't have) and be good at teaching their skills to other people. We think storytelling is one of these important skills.
- Give you time out but never kick you out.
- Challenge you to be and do your best!
- Love walks, animals, be fit and able, and enjoy adventures.
- Support our rights.
- Never shout.
- Give you more food and snacks than at school, and make a calmer atmosphere with more choice. There wouldn't be any school work.
- Keep it a secret if you couldn't afford to pay to come to the club.
- Be good at understanding other people's feelings and give emotional support and hugs, if you want them.
- Have an activities suggestion board, and if something suggested is possible then it will happen.

## Our suggestions include:

- Our of our aunts.
- Someone else's mum or dad (not ours because it could be embarrassing!)
- Some of us would be good at leading specific clubs/activities like animal and fishing club.

# WHY would children and young people go to the Best Out of School Club?

The Out of School club would be **important to our parents/carers** if they needed to work or study longer hours than our school time lasts. It would also be helpful if they **work the weekends and during the school holidays** and they can't get enough time off to take care of us. The other main reason they might need us to go to the club is if they are **ill or have had an accident**. It will let them get the rest they need and not have to worry about us.

For children, the Best Out of School Club gives us the **opportunity to rest and play with our friends**. It can also give us a **break from our caring duties**, or away from siblings when we might need a bit of space.

Sometimes it's really hard to see friends that don't live near you. At the club, this is all taken care of and we have time and choice to do what we want to do together. Our parents/carers also don't have to worry about finding us snacks or teaching us skills that they don't have themselves. In the Best Out of School Club, **there would also be a bus to help get us home** if our parents/carers don't live that close or can't drive. The bus will go from Mid Yell to Cullivoe and Burrivoe.

If you need to come to the club every day, we will make sure there's no pressure to always be doing activities. There will be a quiet area and someone who will always listen to you. It will be like a 2nd home and we'll be like a family to you.



# WHERE would the Best Out of School Club take place?

## Places the club could be or take us to and why

### Mid Yell

- The play park.
- Mid Yell Public Hall.
- The Hill Top Shop – it's the only shop we have.
- Mid Yell Leisure Centre – here we can go swimming, have parties and roller discos, use the trampolines (sometimes) and dance (Shetland dancing and ballet). We also get some taster sessions in other things like martial arts.
- Tonnes of caves all around Yell and Unst.
- Links Hoose Pier – great for fishing (cod, silek, butter, eels, crabs and mackerel), swimming, kayaking and watching nature. This could be a venue for Fun Days at Yell.
- Bunya Sand – an orange beach.
- Mid Yell Junior High – we have a classroom, a play room, a play tunnel, an outdoor play area, and some of us stick around till 4 to get our buses home.
- View points.

### Yell and Shetland

- We can spot lots of wildlife off the shores, otters, killer whales, puffins, seals and even sperm whales sometimes.
- West Sandwick beach – loads of stuff washes up here and it's great for swimming in the summer.
- Mavis Grind – closest point between the North and Atlantic Seas.

- Unst Leisure Centre has "Gym Fit." It's a short ferry ride from Gutcher in Yell.
- Cullivoe Primary School, where we do Wicked Wednesdays 6.30-8.30pm! Here we can hangout and play card games together.
- East Loch – loads of swans.
- Fetlar is a beautiful island.
- Harcosay – a really good camping spot.
- Sellafirth Hall – another good space we could organise our own activities.
- Trow Stone.
- The Herry Hills – good for heather berry picking.
- Breckon Sands – really beautiful! Lots of groatie buckies gets washed up here and there are some good climbing spots nearby and loads of caves.
- Good fishing spots in North Yell.
- Cullivoe Pier, beach and marina. It's great for skimming stones.
- Wind Hoose and Halfway Hoose are haunted.
- Loch of Vatsetter – Caravan Park and loads of seaweed at the beach.
- The White Wife in Otterswick – from a ship wreck.
- Lerwick – it has a cinema, places to eat and a museum.
- Buried treasure on St Ninian's Isle. It was discovered by an 11 year old boy in the 1950s.



# Local things we would like to see improved

## Mid Yell

- Play Park – it's a good park but it needs more big swings and a swing for disabled children, more stuff for climbing, monkey bars, trampolines, a bigger roundabout, and a faster zip line. We think the zip line needs more oil, a steeper slope or tightening.
- Our Youth Club here is on pause but it should come back in 2023.
- Links Hoose used to be a shop and we really miss it. It was the centre of the community. We think the building could be used for something else if it won't.

Some activities we would have to travel to Mainland to do and that can be very expensive or tiring, like gymnastics or learning to play instruments such as the guitar, the drums, the clarinet, the flute and the saxophone. We'd love to be able to do these things on our island.

We can learn to play the fiddle and the accordion at our school, but we'd have to go down south for anything else.

## Yell and Shetland

For some of us Wicked Wednesdays is too far to travel and finishes too late.













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