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Children Talk Tough at School Council

1 December 2009

Budding politicians have been getting to grips with the burning issues of the day at the Kent Primary School Children's Council.

More than 60 year five children enjoyed a day of events celebrating and exploring politics and democracy, before taking part in a debate about education and children's rights.

Children from 40 schools voiced their opinions in the council chamber at County Hall, Maidstone, on some of the important issues which affect them, including bullying, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, sex and relationship education in schools and e-safety.

A group formed a journalist team to report on the day, and an animation company will be making a Creature Comforts style DVD. Members from Kent Youth County Council helped organise the day and chaired the main debate. A performance about children respecting others and having a voice was given by All Stylz Dance.

The event also celebrated the 20th anniversary of the [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#), and Krishna Maroo, from the UN Youth Team, spoke to the children.

KCC cabinet member for Children, Families and Education [Sarah Hohler](#) said: "All of the children had a chance to see how politics works and to discuss important issues which affect them.

"I have been impressed with the thoughtfulness of the points raised during the debate and would like to say well done to all of the children and schools for the time they have taken over this."

"Politics affects everyone and I am pleased to see primary schools getting involved."

Hot topics

Children said they found the day "fantastic". Thabo Nkomo, aged 10, from Bromstone Primary School, **Broadstairs**, was one of the children to take part. He said: "It has been really good. The debate gave us a chance to talk about things which matter to us. It was a good opportunity to discuss these important issues."

Samantha Watkins, aged 9, from Allington Primary School, **Maidstone**, said: "I really enjoyed the debate, it was fantastic. I was a bit nervous about talking in the debate but it turned out to be really good fun. "

Danielle Cross, aged 9, from Milstead Primary School, **Sittingbourne**, said: "I really enjoyed the performance bit from All Stylz Dance. I definitely learnt some new things today. I think it was also good to be able to meet other children from different schools."

Sophie Dallimore, aged 9, from Kings Farm Primary School, **Gravesend**, said: "It has been a fantastic experience. I have enjoyed all of it."



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