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Success of Greenwood's Rights Respecting School Concert

S1-S6 Greenwood Academy Rights Respecting School ambassadors organized a concert to showcase the talents of young people in our local community and raise awareness of children's rights. It was a performance, both exciting and informative which included the participation of the five cluster primaries. The concert took place on Wednesday 20th September and commenced at 4pm. It lasted for approximately one hour and fifteen minutes. It was held in the school itself, the center being at the heart of the concert. Bleachers were pulled out, and chairs placed to make room for the 250+ guests. The children felt it important, myself included, to repeat and continue the legacy of success and achievement within children's rights as another way of embedding our ethos into the curriculum.

Greenwood Academy first developed their Right's Respecting School ambassador program not many years ago. It tends to be a leadership course in itself with children displaying excellent communication, leadership and management skills for their time in the group. The concert became only an annual event in the September of 2016. The concert's debut showed the beginning of a very special and close relationship with the younger, and transitioning primary to secondary pupils. The concert this year included vocal, choral performances from each of the primaries. The accompaniments varied from piano to backing tracks, and each performance was sought with the dedication to a specific right. Greenwood itself provided its own form of entertainment with a vocal solo from Gillian Thorpe (S4) and a piano solo from Ryan Lai (S4). The folk group, vocal ensemble and community choir also attended and wowed the audience with their pitch-perfect timing and quality.

Every act that was performed was associated with a certain right. Lawthorn primary sang 'Black or White'- a song mentioning the prejudices and not so different differences racial segregation is based upon. They linked this song to Article 2 which states you have the right to protection against discrimination. This just one example of the intricate thought behind each performance, which all held genuine meaning. It was a roaring success. Children watch eagerly as the performance was streamed (live) and projected onto a smart-board so that from their seats they could watch and not miss a thing. We had programs specially made for the night, which boasted our long history of events which we are very proud of. A raffle and donations page made it possible to collect extra funds and the ornate prizes added some fun and competitiveness to the night.

Greenwood has managed to provide the platform and basis for the knowledge and inclusion of children's rights to soar. Our success on Wednesday night is only a small example of the work which will follow. Keep an eye out for up and coming events on Greenwood Academy RRS Twitter account: @greenwood_RRS

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