



Compass House Christmas 2021 Evaluation Report

Background

In 2017; 102 students from across the SILCs took part in the Mark Your Mark ballot (largest youth consultation in the UK). From the ten issues the students collectively voted that a Curriculum to Prepare us for Life as the top issue for them. Students took over the SEND Partnership Board (previously Complex Needs Partnership Board) in November 2017 and spoke to the board about what a curriculum for life means to them and how they would like valuable work experience.

The Compass House project was set up in 2018. Staff from specialist schools across Leeds supported students to come together to plan and open their very own pop up shop for one week during the month of December in Kirkgate Market. Students made all decisions about the shop (known as Compass House) including making all the products to sell.

Due to the success of the project in 2018, this has now become an annual event.

What we did

Supported by the Voice, Influence and Change Team; students from East SILC, West SILC, Broomfield South SILC, Green Meadows Academy, The Lighthouse School and St John's School for the Deaf met monthly, September to December 2021, to plan the opening of the 2021 Compass House pop up shop.

Students made all the decisions about promotion, products to sell and shop décor.

The Compass House pop up shop opened Monday 6th to Friday 10th December 2021, 10am till 2pm in Kirkgate Market.

Children and Families Service contributed £400 towards the promotional costs and Kirkgate Market provided the unit free of charge for the week.

Promotion

- 2-week social media campaign @CompassHouseLS on facebook and twitter
- Flyers were printed and distributed across the settings and organisations
- BBC Radio Leeds interviews
- Students East SILC created their very own [Compass House song and video](#)
- Child Friendly Leeds [Blog](#)
- A press release was written and shared by Leeds City Council



Outcomes

Compass House was a great youth voice project which enabled staff and students from across six settings to work in partnership to create a valuable work experience project.

The project also offers valuable learning opportunities for students; these include

- Interacting with peers from other schools and extended friendship groups
- Interacting with members of the public
- Gaining independence, being able to choose and order their own lunches
- Mathematical skills when dealing with product sales
- Learning from other market stall holders – a specific thanks to the staff at Malcolm Michaels who spent a lot of time talking to students

As recognition for the commitment to the project, 35 students will be invited to Leeds Civic Hall in March 2022 to recognise their involvement and the skills they have developed.

Quotes from students

“A fantastic day, I am excited because I have made new friends.”

‘I have had the best time ever and want to come back next week’

Quotes from teachers

‘It was lovely to meet staff and pupils from other SILCs’

‘Fantastic project that is incredibly valuable to the students that take part. This really is a highlight of the year’

