

## Council rep

In one school, the students we were working with needed to share the issues they were concerned about with people who could help them bring about improvements. We explored ways of getting them involved with the school council. We talked about the possibility of someone from their group (or even a pair or more of them together) attending a council meeting. The idea of representation on the school council for 'their group' was also proposed but these ideas proved to be too daunting for them. No one in the group felt able to go to the council as an individual or even confident enough to speak to their form representatives.

Then the school SENCo suggested an imaginative but practical way forward. He invited a council member along to meet the 'What about us?' research group. This was welcomed by the students and was the start of a very exciting way of working. The group worked together regularly with this council representative, telling him their concerns and sharing ideas about things that needed to be changed. This process turned out to be very productive and the students produced lots of ideas. They continued to explore these ideas together with the council representative, using a camera to capture in pictures the difficulties they experienced around the school. The council representative took their ideas back to council meetings and changes started to happen.