

Report of Comvoc Committee June 2018

As members are aware, we have been waiting for Birchwood School to let us know how they would like to spend monies raised for Kids Out.

I have recently received two requests from them and I am seeking approval to support these projects:

Birch Wood Vale is the more 'main stream' side of the school which caters for a relatively small number of pupils who have found real main stream too difficult or stressful. The school run a 'challenge' each term where pupils can earn points towards rewards. This term the school have decided to make the reward a trip linked to some aspect of the curriculum – Cadbury World, the seaside, or the zoo. They have asked if we could support this and I am suggesting that we offer **£500** towards the trip.

The second request is for monies towards a communication device called 'Eyegaze'. This is to enable very disabled pupils (in Birch Wood main school) to begin to communicate in class using just their eyes. It costs £7000 and the school already has about half the money. The following link explains briefly how it works and the benefits to children.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9hx4Urvyk>

I understand that two members of staff are intending to do a long and rigorous walk in their own time to raise further funds towards this. The school are keen that we become involved and would welcome visitors next term when (if) it is up and running.

Again I would like to suggest offering **£500** towards this. However, I understand from John Dehnel that we may be able to double that figure with a district grant. I obviously need Council's approval before applying for that.

Helen Bett