



Where kids have freedom to be themselves . . .

To allow children to experience the full range of feelings, free from the judgement and intervention of an adult. *Freedom to make decisions always involves risk and requires the possibility of negative outcomes. Apparently negative consequences such as boredom, stress, anger, disappointment and failure are a necessary part of individual development. Summerhill policy statement*

Summerhill was the most important five years of my life, as close to the bone as who your mother and father were, having a round face and being a girl. *Hylda ex-pupil.*

Summerhill is a real place, not a utopia. Living in a community of around 100 people is not always easy. Everybody is learning about

themselves, and on a bleak January day, with the east wind blowing, things are sometimes not wonderful!

But Summerhill in summer time is lush, green and not unlike Never-never Land. It is more of a family or tribe than a school – full of companionship, laughter and real feelings.

For many Summerhill pupils it becomes the most meaningful experience in their lives. *Zoë Neill Readhead, Principal of Summerhill*

At Summerhill I am not bullied and I am safe, and I have freedom of speech. I am given responsibility, I have the opportunity to look after myself, choose how I want to learn. By being given these opportunities, I can be what I want. Which is perfect and is every child's dream. *Alex C. pupil*

The function of the child is to live his own life—not the life that his anxious parents think he should live, not a life according to the purpose of the educator who thinks he knows best. *A.S. Neill*

I'm only 14 and I know so much more, like I know how to stand up for myself and say 'Hey I don't like this!' And a child which is going to a state school would not do such a thing because they're scared to. Here people don't have to be scared to say anything. *Vita pupil*

