

School Council Policy

What is our school council for?

- The school council is about:
 - Learning to work together
 - Learning about democracy
 - Learning how to play a positive role in our community
- The school council's job is to involve everyone, not do everything. It needs to get everyone:
 - Finding things they want to change
 - Coming up with ways to make them better
 - Putting those ideas in to action
 - Seeing what works (evaluating)

How does our class council work?

- Our whole class has a meeting every 2 weeks on Wednesdays at 2.50.
- We look at what we're going to talk about the day before the meeting, so everyone has time to think.
- Our School Council member runs the meeting each time (with help from the teacher if they need it).
- A different person takes notes each time (with help from the teacher if they need it).
- Our School Council representatives take our ideas to the whole school council meeting the following week.

What will the school council do for our class?

- When you give your class representatives an idea, they will:
 - Note it down
 - Take it to the next school council meeting
 - Tell you what is happening to your idea within two weeks
- The school council will try to make your idea happen by getting:
 - Permission
 - Support
 - Money
 - Time
- If they can't they will tell you why not.
- If they can, they will want your class to help make your idea happen.

What will staff do for the school council?

- Make sure meetings happen when they are supposed to.
- Support pupils to run meetings.
- A member of staff will answer all the school council's questions within two weeks.
- If the member of staff has to say 'no' to anything, they will explain why.

Staff role in class meetings

Before meetings:

- Ensure there is time given for meetings.
- Make sure there is agenda up in your classroom at least a day before the meeting.

During meetings:

- Initially model chairing (discuss what worked, what didn't work). Slowly draw back your role.
- Support the Chair and Secretary quietly - a whisper in the ear.
- Eventually, you want to just be a point of information

Our School Council

Everyone is part of the school council. The Class Meetings give everyone a voice, School Council tells everyone what's going on and puts actions in place.

Staff/policy level

- School council policy
- School council link governor
- Lead staff member given time to support the development of the school council (mentioned in job description)
- Class meetings in the timetable
- Staff expected to follow the structure of class meetings (in job descriptions of new appointments)

Profile and communication

- School council communications (at least 2, regularly updated)
 - Progress Board
 - Newsletter (physical or digital)
 - School council assemblies
- School council section on school website

Structural elements in place

- Class meetings regularly happening in all class/form groups
- School Council meet once a fortnight to discuss the outcomes of class meetings and set up the following class meeting

Evaluation

- Student involvement in school actions is recorded
- Student involvement in running class meetings is recorded
- This data is analysed by the School Council, staff and governors
- An action plan is devised annually to widen and deepen involvement across the school