

School Council Policy

Review Date: January 2025

Mr. C. McSorley

Student voice is an essential way to develop mature and confident students who have multiple opportunities to contribute actively to shaping their educational experience. St. Vincent's School is committed to providing opportunities for students to be consulted within the classroom, to become responsible for their own learning and to provide opportunities for students to be consulted about wider school issues thus becoming responsible for their school

Aims

- To encourage active student engagement in learning and in life at St. Vincent's School.
- To nurture the skills required to develop responsibility, independence, teamwork, and leadership.
- To embed a culture where students feel consulted and considered in decisions which affect their individual learning and their school.
- To design appropriate opportunities for students to voice opinions both within lessons and beyond. - To promote active citizenship. - To contribute to whole school improvement.
- To improve communication between staff and students and ensure that there is a free and constant dialogue between the two.

Principles

Student voice activities have a direct impact on the individuals who have their voices heard. They:

- Enable pupils to make a positive contribution to their learning environment.
- Increase engagement with school and learning and counter disaffection.
- Give a better understanding of young people's insights and capabilities.
- Form the basis for developing democratic principles and practice.
- Opportunities to gather student voice permeate and inform all areas of school life gathered through
- Consultation with student groups about things that matter in school.
- Evaluation of the learning experience.
- Systematic collection and evaluation of the views of pupils, across the spectrum of their school experience.

Our School Council aims to encourage our pupils to:

- Develop confidence and responsibility and make the most of their abilities
- Prepare them to play an active role as citizens
- Develop good relationships and respect the differences between people
- To have a "voice" and to share their opinions and ideas with others

Why?

We value the benefits of operating a School Council. The School Council represents the whole school. We feel they benefit the whole community and as a school we operate as a community. Through our School Council and class council work it is hoped that we can develop a balance and wholeness, helping to make our community more harmonious to live in. Our School Council work will enable pupils with positive attitudes to exert a positive influence. Everyone will benefit from the work of the School Council.

Our School Council aims to ensure our children have:

- A safe, happy, and fair learning environment.
- A forum to voice their concerns and act upon them.
- A structured opportunity to learn problem-solving skills.
- An opportunity to take an active role in the organisation of the school.
- An opportunity to experience a democratic process.

Our School Council should encourage pupils to develop:

- A sense of ownership over policy and practice.
- A consensus over school issues such as activities.
- A responsibility towards the school community and environment.

Our School Council should give pupils the experience of:

- Planning, organising and monitoring small projects.
- Speaking and listening skills.
- Debating skills.
- Mediation and negotiating skills.

Our School Council aims to prepare our pupils for citizenship by teaching them about roles, rights, and responsibilities within the school system.

Our school council is chaired by Head Girl Emily Garner and has a representative from each class group from Primary to Post16