

Student Council Policy

2017-2018



The Student Council provides an opportunity for students to have an input into decisions which affect them. The council is composed of students elected by their peers and includes a staff member who liaises with them on an on-going basis.

AIM

To give students a voice in school matters and to foster a spirit of active participation in the school.

OBJECTIVES

- To improve communication between students and staff and management.
- To provide a forum for student's views to be expressed or addressed.
- To provide peer support.
- To improve school spirit and the atmosphere in the school.
- To promote a sense of justice among the student body.
- To organise social events in the school.
- To raise funds for projects deemed worthy by the student body.

STUDENT COUNCIL COMMITTEE

- The Council will consist of one student per class – 16 students in total.
- Officers – President, Vice- President, Secretary, Treasurer, PR team.
- Liaison teacher to facilitate meetings.

ELECTION PROCEDURE

- Elections take place in the 3rd week September each year during KL period or SPHE.
- Each class group elects one class representatives per class.
- Each student interested in representing their class on the Student Council must nominate themselves. The class teacher must validate their nomination.
- Once names have been ratified students can start their campaign, which would include an address to their class during KL or SPHE class to outline the reasons they should be elected.
- Students will then be able to vote on official ballot paper for their chosen candidate. The class teacher collects these votes and results are announced after votes are counted.

THE STUDENT COUNCIL AT WORK

- The Council is composed of 16 members.
- Meetings will be held twice a month.
- Every class representative must attend these meetings. Any representatives who miss three consecutive meetings can be removed from the council and a replacement representative is then sought.
- Attendance and minutes are recorded by the Secretary.
- Feedback from each meeting will be given to class groups during the next KL or SPHE class
- Topics must come through class representatives and must then be submitted to the student council prior to a meeting, where possible. Once the agenda has been set items are discussed at the fortnightly meetings.
- Chairperson takes responsibility for the running of the meeting.
- Minutes are recorded by the Secretary and signed off at the beginning of the following meeting.
- Decisions are reached by a vote, carried by a simple majority.
- The Student Council Liaison Teacher is present at each meeting can clarify certain issues.
- Other issues are normally brought before the Principal through the medium of a typed letter from the Chairperson.
- The Principal will be invited to attend a meeting at the end of each term.



ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Students' roles:

- Participate fully in the Student Council.
- Nominate suitable candidates to represent their class.
- Discuss genuine issues in a constructive manner.
- Support the work of council representatives.

Class Representatives' roles:

- Represent their class in a mature and constructive manner.
- Attend all meetings.
- Make a genuine effort to improve the school.
- Work to become positive role models for the rest of the student body.

Class Teachers' roles:

- Encourage full class participation.
- Facilitate students in participating fully in school planning and decision making.
- Facilitate nominations, signing off on prospective candidates.
- Allow elections to be held during KL or SPHE classes.

Liaison Teacher:

- Conduct annual elections.
- Organise and facilitate meetings.
- Organise workshops for student council members.
- Ensure attendance and proper conduct of meetings.
- Be available to students to discuss any queries in relation to the council.
- Ensure the school website, Jahrbuch and student council board are updated.
- To regularly review the running of the council.
- To apply for the annual Student Council budget through the normal budget application process in the school
- To oversee and monitor the spend of the budget.



Principal / Deputy Principal:

- To respond to any queries or issues brought before them by the student council.
- To encourage and promote the student council.
- To ensure that students have an important and proactive role to play in the running of the school.
- To arrange for the provision of an annual budget for the Student Council up to a maximum of €500 per year

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- A vote must be held regarding any amendments to this Constitution and be ratified by the Board of Management.

Policy updated October 2017