School Council Policy

Definition
A school council is a classroom elected body of pupils whose purpose is to represent their classes and be a forum for active and constructive pupil input into the daily life of the school.

Introduction
This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for School Council at Beatrice Tate School and its implementation is the responsibility of all members of staff at Beatrice Tate.

The Importance of School Councils
“All young people – irrespective of ability, personality, race or class – should feel valued and safe within an inclusive and caring school community throughout their school years. Schools with an ethos of mutual respect develop into caring communities where each individual understands that they can make a valuable contribution...” (Teddy Gold, Honorary director. Schools Councils UK, June 2000: taken from “Primary School Councils toolkit, 2000”, page 5).

A school is a community and School Council will help to make Beatrice Tate School a more harmonious and positive community to live in.

Aims and Objectives
- Provide the opportunity for pupils to become partners in their own education and to make a positive contribution to the school environment and ethos
- Develop and promote children’s self-confidence, social skills and their responsible behaviour towards each other and towards their teachers and adult members of staff
- Develop the pupils’ knowledge, skills and understanding of how to contribute to society as a whole and what it means to be an active citizen.
- Develop pupils effective speaking and listening skills
- Develop the pupils recognition of themselves as worthy individuals with a right to be heard
- To allow the children to have a “voice” and to share their opinions and ideas with others
- To allow children to become more responsible and actively involved in the decision-making process of the school
- To develop important life-skills that promote positive mental health and social welfare, emotional literacy, critical and moral reasoning, self-esteem, self-awareness, communication skills, relationship skills and assertiveness

Structure
- One pupil from each tutor group
- All pupils to have a vote
- Candidates may vote for themselves
- One member of the Senior Management Team
- One teacher to be school council link teacher
- One teaching assistant from each key stage to act as pupil advocates
- Two midday meals supervisors
- The headteacher may be invited, if required
- Representatives will serve for one year but can be re-elected for the following year if they want to stand

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**Organisation**
- School council meetings will be held at least twice every half term, usually 2 – 3 weeks apart, depending on the length of the half term.
- The meetings will take place at lunchtime and led by the pupils who will be known as the school council representatives.
- A Chair Person will be elected to lead the meetings.
- Representatives can put forward items for the agenda, which will be drawn up by the link teacher and chair.
- There will be at least one main issue on the agenda for each council meeting as well as opportunities for all representatives to discuss other ideas raised by pupils in their class.
- A copy of the agenda will be provided for every School Council Representative for them to follow during the meeting.
- A School Council Secretary will be elected to take the minutes and copy them to all the representatives, team leaders and headteacher.
- Minutes will be displayed on the school council notice board in the hall.
- The council will have a budget agreed by the link teacher and the headteacher.

**Additional Information**
The Council will be under the direct oversight of the headteacher and the council cannot:
- Intervene in the control or management of the school
- Intervene in the educational instruction of pupils
- Intervene in the management or operation of a school day
- Exercise authority over teaching staff or other persons employed at the school