

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.

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for School Council at Glendermott Primary School and its implementation is the responsibility of all members of staff at Glendermott. 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 the School Council will help to make Glendermott Primary a more harmonious and positive community to live in.

Aims and Objectives

- 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
- 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.

Choosing the Representatives

During the first two weeks of the Spring Term, teachers in Foundation stage, KS1 and KS2, will discuss with their classes the role of the School Council.

All children should be supported to decide whether they would like to stand for class representative and be made aware of what this role entails. Brainstorming what makes an "effective" council rep is a supportive way to get children to think about the qualities needed for such a role.

Pupils will be asked to prepare and deliver a short speech (manifesto) to the rest of their class (e.g. stating why they should be chosen)

A secret ballot will be held, where each pupil will be given the opportunity to vote. Slips will be counted by the link teacher and pupils from the council. The highest numbers of votes are elected as class council representatives.

This process will take place every two years to allow continuity within the school council.

In the event of two or more children drawing in an election, a revote should take place.

The first School Council Meeting

The first School Council meeting will take place as soon as possible before half term in the Spring Term.

It will be chaired by the School Council Coordinator and pupils will be given opportunities to learn about the procedures of these meetings, minutes, designated roles, turn taking, discussion, sub-committees, etc.

Photographs of the School Council Representatives will be taken and displayed on the School Council Notice Board and the schools website.

Badges will be given out at an Official ceremony attended by their parents and must be worn by the School Council Reps at all times in school

The school council

- Each year group will elect two children to be their representatives.
- The school council will be made up of two representatives from each class. •
- The school council will meet at least once every half term.
- Mrs Page will be the school council link teacher
- Minutes will be taken at the school council meetings. These will be distributed to classes to make sure everyone knows about the activities of the council.

Responsibilities of Pupil Councillors

- Class representatives will report back to their class after every school council meeting.
- A class council meeting will be held at least once every half term - between school council meetings.
- Class representatives will take issues brought up by their class to the school council. They should put across the views of their class, not their own opinions.
- If a representative misses school council meetings three times without a good reason, the class can choose to elect a new representative.
- If a representative resigns the class will elect a new representative.
- Class representatives will serve for two school years
- In year 1 representatives will be elected every year

School Council meeting Organisation

The meetings are run and led by the pupils (School Council reps). After initial training each School Council Rep takes on a designated role or job. These roles are decided democratically, using a secret ballot system by the School Council

Chair Person Leads meetings and helps set the agenda.

Vice Chair Person Ensures that all Council Representatives carry out their roles effectively. Sets the agenda - together with the Chair Person and the School Council Coordinator. The Vice will also run the meeting in the Chair Person's absence.

Secretary Takes the minutes of each meeting. These are written in note form provided by the School Council Coordinator.

Treasurer Works together with the School Office Manager in managing the School Council budget.

Website Officers- Help to update the School Council Website together with Principle

This policy will be reviewed and updated every two years by Pastoral co-coordinator, Principal and School Council.

SignedDate (Chair of Governors)

