

Crossley Street Primary School



School Council Policy

October 2024

To be reviewed October 2027

Introduction

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for the School Council at Crossley Street Primary School.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

To provide opportunity for pupils to become partners in their own education and to make a positive contribution to the school environment and ethos.

To 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.

To 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.

To develop pupils' recognition of themselves as worthwhile individuals with a right to be heard.

To allow 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 promotes positive mental health and social welfare, emotional literacy critical and moral reasoning, self-esteem, self-awareness, communication skills, relationship skills and assertiveness.

ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT OF OUR SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETINGS

School Council is made up of 2 pupils from each class from Year 1 up to Year 6. Each class must be well represented in terms of gender. A boy and a girl will represent their class for a whole year.

Elections for class representatives take place at the beginning of each academic year. Children may nominate themselves, or may be nominated by another member of the class. Candidates (in KS2 particularly) are encouraged to give a short talk explaining why they would like to be the class representative.

Children who wish to be part of the school council are then interviewed and short lists are made before the final elections are decided.

Councillors are elected for one academic year, and may only serve for one year during their time at school, ensuring that as many children as possible have a chance to be involved.

Meetings take place at least half-termly and all councillors must attend unless they have good reason not to.

There are 2 officers responsible for managing the school council. These are the **Chair**, and the **Secretary**. It will be the Chair's job to speak on behalf of the School Council in any meetings. It will be the secretary's job to write the minutes for each meeting. These will be emailed to the Headteacher.

At the beginning of each academic year, the Learning Mentor or PSHE Lead will chair the meeting. Following this, the Learning Mentor will attend every school council meeting to offer support and advice.

Councillors are expected to set a good example to other children. Any behaviour which is below standard could affect a child's place on the school council.

Councillors and staff members can invite speakers or visitors to council meetings by prior agreement from the Head Teacher/Learning Mentor.

Opportunities for the children to raise items should also be provided. The School Council Rep will take notes about issues/ideas discussed and bring them to the next School Council meeting. After each School Council meeting, the School Rep will report back to the class on the issues discussed and the action taken. This should only take 5 minutes of a lesson.

RUNNING THE SCHOOL COUNCIL

The agenda for each School Council Meeting will be decided by the Learning Mentor, together with School Council Members at the previous meeting.

At each Council meeting there will be one main issue on the agenda, as well as opportunities for all School Council Reps to discuss other ideas raised by the pupils in their class.

The minutes will be taken by the School Council Secretary in note form.

THE FIRST SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

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

It will be chaired by the School Council Coordinators Mr Whitehead and Mrs Lindop. Pupils will be given opportunities to learn about the procedures of these meetings, minutes, designated roles, turn taking, discussion etc.

Photographs of the School Council Representatives will be taken and displayed on the School Council Notice Board, and on the display board in the main entrance hall.

Badges will be given out and must be worn by the School Council Reps at all times in school.

SEND/INCLUSION

Every child matters. It is believed that every child must be given an opportunity to lead in one way or the other, irrespective of their language, ethnic background, education or religious inclinations.