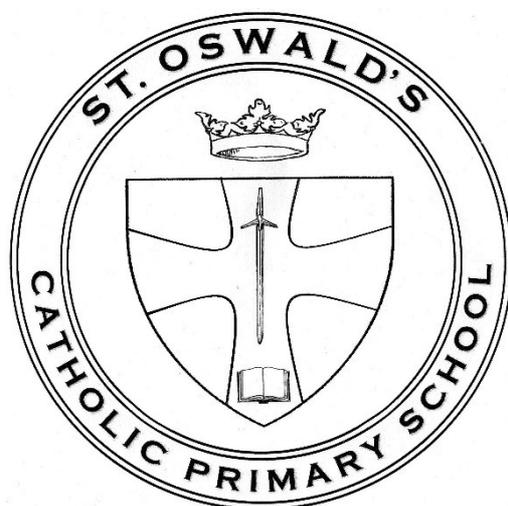


St Oswald's Catholic Primary School



School Council Policy 2022-2023

Approved by:	Approval date	Renewal date

This School Council Policy is set within the context of the whole school aims and mission statement:

*Together with Jesus,
We will Learn and Grow in Faith*

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 St Oswald's Primary School and its implementation is the responsibility of all members of staff at St Oswald's.

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 St. Oswald's School a more welcoming and respectful place to be.

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

- Two pupils from each class
- All pupils to have a vote
- Candidates may vote for themselves
- One teacher from each key stage to be school council link teacher
- Representatives will serve for one year
- School Councillors to vote between selves for roles of Chair, Vice-Chair, Finance Officers and Secretary

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 on Wednesday afternoon and led by the pupils who will be known as the school councillors.
- 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.
- 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 and link teacher.
- Minutes will be displayed on the school council notice board in the main corridor.

Additional Information

The Council will be under the direct oversight of the link teacher 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

Covid addendum

As a result of Covid restrictions, the School Council will meet only in Year group bubbles at different times. During this period there will be no full School Council meetings. Minutes will be recorded as usual and shared with each Year group of Councillors.