



# School Council Policy

## Overview

This Policy is set within the context of the School Mission Statement:

"I come that they may have life and have life to the full"

John 10:10

A school council is a group of children, elected by fellow children, to represent their school and think of ideas for improving it. The School Council at Holy Rosary RC Primary School is made up of two children from each KS2 class. There is a link teacher who supports the children in their meetings.

This policy is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for implementing a School Council throughout the whole of Holy Rosary School. Through this we will nurture children's spiritual, moral and social development within our Catholic ethos. The policy will be reviewed in line with the priorities set in the school development plan.

## Objectives

1. To develop the concepts of citizenship, democracy, fairness, rights and responsibilities of all children at Holy Rosary School.
2. 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.
3. Give children the opportunity to work considerately, fairly and cooperatively using democratic procedures to make and implement decisions in areas which affect their lives in school.
4. Give all children a means to express their views on issues in school which affect them.
5. To provide opportunity for children's to become partners in their own education and to make a positive contribution to the school environment and ethos.

## Strategies

1. The School Council will meet, where possible, once a week. At the end of each meeting, the School Council will set an agenda for the next meeting. This agenda may reflect

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Issues raised in class,

or issues raised by the Senior Leadership Team. Minutes of each meeting will be taken by a School Council member, and these minutes will be uploaded on to the school website. The aim is that the School Council is an 'active' council rather than a 'petitioning' council. This means that the School Council is working to implement its decisions rather than making lists of demands upon staff in the school.

2. When a School Council meeting is taking place, it is expected that a class representative will keep to the following rules: attend all meetings when they are in school, listen to others while they are speaking and not interrupt, speak only when asked to by the teacher, respect
3. what other people are saying, accept majority decisions made by the School Council and work to implement them, and accept any veto of School Council decisions made by the Senior Leadership Team.
4. At the beginning of each school year, the newly elected School Council children are expected to sign a contract, that states that their behaviour is expected to be exemplary and set an example to the rest of the children in the school.
5. The children will be taught about a fair democracy before the School Council elections take place at the beginning of the year. There will be a secret ballot, all children voting for two children who they think would make good representatives. Candidates cannot vote for themselves. Children can only hold office for a maximum of two years during their school life. The link teacher, as well as any child, cannot count the votes; this needs to be an impartial person. In the event of a tie between candidates, the link teacher will go to the class to carry out a further secret ballot. The two children with the most votes will then be the class representatives (also known as class councilors) for that class, for the year.
6. The school council children are required to reflect on the feedback from previous school council meetings. Where appropriate, the class representatives will then be given the chance to feedback to the class and ask for their class' views on issues discussed by the school council. These class council meetings are run completely by the class representatives. One class representative will be the 'speaker' and give the feedback/ask any questions. The other class representative will be the 'scribe'. They will write down any ideas, feedback or views and they will then bring these back to the following school council meeting, ready for discussion.

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## 7. The School Council

children will work throughout the year to make a positive contribution to the school environment and ethos by planning tasks such as fundraising, running events and leading a new policy or strategy within school.

### Outcome

This policy will ensure that the children at Holy Rosary RC Primary School are all given the opportunity to share their views and opinions on many different topics that are important to their school life. The school Council children will act as the 'voice' of the children and will implement action and change within school.

Holy Rosary Governing Body will determine, support, monitor and review the school policies on School Council. In particular they will monitor the effectiveness of the school's policy through the school self-review processes and assess its impact.

Revised and adopted by the Governing Body on: 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Signed : *P.Devine (Chair)*

Date to be reviewed : December 2019