



## Student Council Policy

Longridge School believes that the Student Council has an important role to play in teaching our learners about citizenship, spiritual, moral, cultural and social development and allowing them to have a clear voice within school:

- Learners have a right to be involved in decisions that concern them (see article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child)
- Student councils are a very good way for young people to learn about democracy; representing others, chairing meetings, minute taking and responsibility (British Values).
- Respect for the opinions of learners helps to create a well-ordered school, by teaching about rights and responsibilities.

#### **Our student council aims to provide:**

- A positive forum for pupil voice
- A structured opportunity for pupil-leadership dialogue
- Pupils with an insight into democracy
- A forum for pupils to instigate change in respect of elements of school life, e.g. school meals, outdoor equipment, events, celebrations and projects throughout the school year
- A feeling of self-worth and mutual respect for pupils.

#### **Composition:**

The school will run regular meetings with learners being voted for by peers and staff at the start of each academic year. The views of class peers will be sought ahead of the meetings which run half termly and will be presented by the school councillors for each class. Learners will need to show a willingness to commit to meetings and this will hopefully give the meetings focus and purpose. Staff members are welcome at meetings but do not have voting rights at council meetings.

#### **Frequency of meetings**

The student council will meet half termly. If necessary, an emergency meeting can be called by the chair person with the agreement of the staff representative.

#### **Communication**

All student council meetings should be documented and key points circulated to all classes in an appropriate format that is accessible to all learners. Key points should also be displayed in a student friendly format on the school council notice board and electronic copy kept in an accessible area on the school computer files.

#### **Role of the staff representative/head teacher**

- Facilitate the formation of agreed ground rules for meetings e.g. taking turns, listening, minute taking etc.
- Offer advice and guidance when requested to do so.
- Help in the preparation for meetings.
- To ensure requests are taken seriously and action taken as agreed in the meeting.

## Ground Rules

Do:

- Listen to other people
- Make sure everybody's point of view counts
- Treat everyone equally and with respect (the council may vote to suspend any member who fails to do this)
- Create a good atmosphere
- Make sure you seek and provide the views of other learners even if they are not the same as your own views.

Don't:

- Be afraid to speak out
- Keep important things to yourself
- Make jokes about important things
- Use inappropriate or insulting language

The student council is responsible for the behaviour of learners at its meetings and should deal with any misbehaviour.

The success of the school council will be reviewed periodically by the council itself, by teaching staff and through the feedback collected from learners. Following review, alterations to the structure and functioning of the council might be suggested.

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Last reviewed	Nov 2023
Next review due	Nov 2026, or as requested by student council
Reviewed by	Head teacher (and student council)