

## School Council Policy 2017

### **Introduction**

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for the Class and School Council at St. Thomas More Primary School.

This policy was formulated by the School Council Coordinator (Miss Clothier) and the School Council Representatives (children)

The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all, members of staff at St. Thomas More 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 pupil's 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**

### **SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The meetings usually take place in school on a Monday between (12:15-12:45) in a classroom.

The School Council Coordinator together with the School Council representatives holds the meeting.

### **RUNNING THE SCHOOL COUNCIL**

The School Council Co-coordinator will draw up the agenda for each School Council 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 School Council Coordinator in note form will take the minutes. The minutes are read out at the end of every meeting and agreed on as correct by every member.

### **CHOOSING THE REPRESENTATIVES**

During the first three weeks of the Autumn Term, teachers in 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 teacher and pupils with the highest number of votes are elected as class council representatives.

This process will take place every new school year to allow continuity within the School Council.

Pupils elected will serve for one year.

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 Autumn 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.

Badges are distributed within the first term 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.

## **OUR WATCHWORD**

**You have a voice.**

**We listen.**

**We care.**

**Speak Out!**

**Speak Up!**