



# MARSDEN COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Marsden Community Primary School School Council 'Learner Voice' Policy

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**STATUS:** Deputy Headteacher

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## School Council 'Learner Voice' Policy 2016-17

### Non-Negotiables

- School Council consists of one elected child from each class (Yr1 – Yr6)
- Structured Council Meetings are held with the Deputy Headteacher on a regular basis
- Teachers ensure they support the School Council by holding regular Class Council meetings
- Learners are actively taught about and practise democracy in classes by discussing and voting on a range of issues.
- School Councillors listen to, present all ideas and feedback on issues so all learners are involved in the decision making process and effect real change
- The Headteacher will meet with, consider and answer the School Council's questions and concerns.

### Overview – Purpose and Aims

At Marsden Community Primary School, we value each learner and aim to build relationships of trust and mutual respect, where learners are encouraged to take an active part in the decision making process. We aim to offer a safe, happy and fair learning environment and believe learners have the right to be listened to and consulted when appropriate. This links closely with our mission statement:

*Together we can discover, create and succeed.*

### Promoting British Values

The DFE recently reinforced the need “to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.” By valuing and encouraging a 'learner voice' we are ensuring that children learn about democracy which is an aspect of British values identified in the Prevent Agenda.

### Why is 'Learner Voice' important?



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- To allow all pupils to feel valued as part of an inclusive, caring community.
- To promote positive attitudes of self-respect.
- To learn to express own feelings, whilst valuing the needs and opinions of others.
- To learn about democracy and share decision making.
- To learn to take on responsibilities and make valued contributions.
- To develop life skills of speaking, debating, planning, listening, empathy, collaborating, negotiating, problem solving.
- To learn how to play a positive, active role in the community by learning about roles, rights and responsibilities.
- To promote a sense of responsibility and ownership within the school community.

## How will it be supported and encouraged?

- Elections are held annually for School Council representatives.
- Children are nominated by their peers and follow the election process of creating a manifesto; making a speech and experiencing a secret ballot at a Polling Station.
- The School Council consists of children elected by their peers from both KS1 and KS2 classes. There is one child elected from each class from Year 1 to Year 6.
- The children decide their aims and priorities.
- Meetings are held with the Deputy Headteacher on a regular basis and encourage pupils to develop ideas, collect information and make decisions in respect of School Development.
- All pupils throughout school will play an active part in making decisions about school issues by suggesting ideas for their class representatives on the School Council and by holding regular Class Council meetings. This allows all children to share ownership and responsibility of the decision making process.
- EYFS will be involved in decision making activities through circle time and a School Councillor from KS2 will be linked with each EYFS class.

## What is the role of the School Council?



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The School Council's job is to involve everyone in the decision making process and to bring about change. It needs to get everyone:

- Finding things they want to change.
- Coming up with ideas about how to make them better.
- Putting those ideas in to action.
- Evaluating actions and deciding what works.

## How does the Class Council work?

Class Councils will have a meeting every 2 weeks after the School Council has met.

- They will listen to the minutes from the School Council meeting and add ideas.
- They will carry out discussion tasks and / or activities given by the School Council.
- A different person can run the meeting each time (with help from the teacher, if they need it).
- A different person takes notes each time (with help from the teacher, if they need it).

## What will the School Council do for each class?

When the Class Representative is given an idea, she or he will:

- Note it down
- Take it to the next School Council meeting



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- Tell their peers what is happening to their ideas.
- Ideas can be put into a class suggestion box, which will be emptied and taken to School Council meetings

## The school council will try to make ideas happen by getting:

- Permission
- Support
- Money
- Time

## What will staff do for the School Council?

- Make sure meetings happen when they are supposed to.
- Support pupils to run meetings.
- The Headteacher will answer the School Council's questions.
- If the Headteacher has to say 'no' to anything, she will explain why.
- A nominated link Governor will attend key meetings

## How will we measure it?

Progress will be reviewed by consulting with all learners and staff and looking for evidence that.....

- Everyone understands the importance of 'learner voice'.
- Everyone actively encourages and supports 'learner voice'
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- Changes have come about which have been initiated by children.
- Children feel their ideas are valued and listened to and can explain how they know.

The Marsden School Council will also build and develop links with the School Council at Saint Michael and All Angels C of E Primary School in Foulridge.



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They will work on a joint projects as well as share successes and difficulties of their role as elected representatives of a school community.

Two members of the School Council have also been elected to attend the Pupil parliament Meetings at the Town Hall each half term.

## Additional Policy

- Promoting British Values

Date Reviewed: 5/10/15

Reviewed LT Team: Oct 2016

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Reviewed by: J Charlesworth (DHT)

Shared Staff: OCT 2016