

# School Council Policy

<b>Review Date</b>	October 2019	<b>Leader of Policy Review</b>	Mrs S. Sant
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Student voice is an essential way to develop mature and confident students who have multiple opportunities to contribute actively to shaping their educational experience.

Hawarden High School is committed to providing opportunities for students to be consulted within the classroom and become responsible for their own learning and to provide opportunities for students to be consulted about wider school issues and become responsible for their school.

## **Aims**

- To encourage active student engagement in learning and in life at Hawarden High School
- To nurture the skills required to develop responsibility, independence, teamwork and leadership.
- To embed a culture where students feel consulted and considered in decisions which affect their individual learning and their school as a whole.
- To design appropriate opportunities for students to voice opinions both within lessons and beyond.
- To promote active citizenship.
- To contribute to whole school improvement.
- To improve communication between staff and students and ensure that there is a free and constant dialogue between the two.

## **Principles**

Student voice activities have a direct impact on the individuals who have their voices heard. They:

- Enable pupils to make a positive contribution to their learning environment.
- Increase engagement with school and learning and counter disaffection.
- Give a better understanding of young people's insights and capabilities.
- Form the basis for developing democratic principles and practice.
- Opportunities to gather student voice permeate and inform all areas of school life gathered through:
- Consultation with student groups about things that matter in school.
- Evaluation of the learning experience.
- Systematic collection and evaluation of the views of pupils, across the spectrum of their school experience.

## **Organisation**

School Council meetings are scheduled on the school calendar and take place periodically throughout the school year.

Members of the School Council represent the school at community meetings and at meetings of the Leadership Team and Governing Body.

- School Council organise their own activities and liaise to accommodate these activities on the school calendar.
- Members of the School Council take part in staff recruitment, forming part of the interview process. Student feedback is also gathered, following sample lessons.
- School Council are involved in the whole school development plan process.
- Pupil representatives in the school community and for pupil level decision making
- School Council are involved in creating pupil friendly policies

# School Council Policy

All Houses/Tutor Groups provide an elected representative of the various student bodies. Following the process outlined below :

Pastoral Teams forward a list of names to SS in September of each academic year for all members of each of the following groups.

## **School Council**

Each House has four representatives (and two deputies in their absence) from their House Council (two from Key Stage 3 and two from Key Stage 4) who sit on the School Council. Their term of office will last for the duration of their time in that Key Stage. E.g, a pupil elected in Year 7 will remain on the school council until Year 9. This will affect the election for Tutor Group representatives for House Council each year.

The Council's aims are to provide communication between students and staff, to provide a forum for discussion of issues important to students, to represent students and to undertake/organise projects on behalf of students.

## **House Council**

There should be an election in each Tutor Group for a representative to sit on the House Council. This is normally completed annually unless a School Council member for that Key Stage acts as the Tutor Group representative. The House Council will be convened by Deputy Heads of House every half term and will consist of between 8 and 10 members. The minutes from those meetings will be forwarded to SS for the attention of the School Council the week prior to the School Council meeting (please see Calendar).

## **SNAG (School Nutrition Action Group)**

Each House appoints two members of their House Council (one from each Key Stage) to the SNAG working party (who may or may not already be school councillors). These representatives will be required to attend the SNAG working group and feed back to House and School Council, as appropriate. Sixth Form elect one member.

## **ECO Group**

Each House appoints two members of their House Council (one from each Key Stage) to the ECO group working party. These representatives will be required to attend the ECO working group and feed back to House and School Council, as appropriate. Sixth Form elect one member.

## **Teaching and Learning**

### **Learning Conversations**

All students should receive a one-to-one learning conversation with their teachers in each term. Learning conversations focus around students' achievements, and areas for progression. The written feedback given to students can form the basis of this conversation.

### **Surveys**

Representatives of the student body are regularly surveyed/interviewed by the Senior Leadership Team. Students are asked for their opinions on a variety of aspects of teaching and learning and school life.

Students are also interviewed in conjunction with work scrutiny, they are asked specific questions in relation to target data, how their work is marked and how feedback helps them to learn.

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## Faculty Student Voice

All faculty areas should research the most effective ways to use student voice to represent each department, provide communication between students and the teachers in the department, undertake research for the department and provide close links between staff and students within departments.

## Curriculum, Evaluation and Review

- Students contribute to school evaluation through completion of a questionnaires and surveys; the analysis of their responses informs the school's self-evaluation process.
- Students should be encouraged take the lead role in lessons in several subjects, creating and presenting resources for their peers e.g. revision CDs, presentation of topics, etc.
- Students evaluate their learning experience during Personal, Social & Education, and during Revision Skills sessions designed to foster students' awareness of how they learn.
- Pupils have the opportunity to talk about their own learning during a one-to-one or small group learning conversations with teachers.
- Peer and self-assessment for learning takes place across curricular areas to strengthen pupils' commitment to their own learning and that of their peers.
- CL's are encouraged to use pupil observers as part of the department self-review programme.
- Opportunities for young people to get involved in leadership are embedded within the curriculum in courses such as sports leaders and outside the curriculum in extended school activities/events.
- Pupils also have the opportunity of representing the school in formal evenings and events in the local community.

## Transfer and Inclusion

- Students act as hosts to Year 6 pupils, during their induction to the school.
- Older school students may act as mentors to younger pupils within their House.
- Year 7 pupils write to their old primary school during the spring term to reflect on their experiences and provide a role model to younger pupils.