

Student Council Policy

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| Review Date | December 2021 | Leader of Policy Review | Mr. M. Clive |
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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.
- To provide face to face contact between pupils and The Headteacher and senior staff. Pupils and staff alike are thus able to receive immediate feedback on matters raised.
- To establish/maintain links with Hawarden CC, Flintshire CC, Welsh Youth Parliament, The Senedd and UK Parliament.

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.
- Give opportunities for student voice to permeate and inform all areas of school life through:-
- Enable consultation with student groups about things that matter in school;
- Support evaluation of the learning experience;
- Facilitate systematic collection and evaluation of the views of pupils across the spectrum of their school experience.

Organisation

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

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

- Student Council organise their own activities and liaise to accommodate these activities on the school calendar.
- Members of the Student Council take part in staff recruitment, forming part of the interview process and leading tours of the school. Student feedback is also gathered, following sample lessons.
- Student Council are involved in the whole school development plan process.

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- Student Council provide pupil representatives in the school community, for pupil level decision making.
- Student Council are involved in creating pupil friendly policies.

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 MRC in September of each academic year for all Council members.

Student Council

Each House has approximately 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 Council. Their term of office may 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 Sixth Form management team are represented as per availability – usually comprising Head Boy, Head Girl or their deputies.

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. The minutes from those meetings will be used in Student Council.

New curriculum working party

The Council will provide members to consult on the new curriculum.

School Health Research Network working party

The council will provide members to consult on the results of SHRN.

Sports Council

The PE subject lead will oversee a council of pupil representatives led by sixth form pupils to cover school sport related matters. Matters arising can be presented to The Council via Sixth form members.

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.

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 to 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.

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- Pupils have the opportunity to talk about their own learning during informal 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.

Transition

- Students act as hosts to Year 6 pupils during their induction.
- Older school students may act as mentors to younger pupils within their House.
- Year 7 pupils write to their old primary school to reflect on their experiences and provide a role model to younger pupils.
- Year 7 pupils will visit their old primary school in the summer term to meet year 6.
- The Council will establish links with consortium student councils.

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