



St Mary's NS

Student Council Policy

April 2022

Role and Purpose of the Student Council

St Mary's NS considers it important that the pupils should play an active, positive role in the life of their school and believes that our Student Council helps to achieve this.

The role of the Student Council is to:

- provide an opportunity for pupils to voice their opinions and offer suggestions in relation to many aspects of school life
- discuss issues relevant to our school and encourage and promote initiatives from the pupils
- offer an opportunity for all pupils to voice their opinions on proposed changes and thereby play a very significant role in improving our school
- act as a channel of communication within the school organisation between pupils and between home and school
- encourage pupils to organise events central to the life of the school
- provide an opportunity to raise funds for charities or for school funds.

The Election Process

Every September, two representatives from 1st to 6th Classes are elected by secret ballot and take a seat on the Council for the duration of that academic year. Nominees are invited to make public presentations in classes to explain why they should get a vote, prior to election. The elected pupils are required to be active participants in the Council, to attend meetings regularly, participate in activities and be a role model for other students. All Student Council members wear lanyards.

Procedures

Members meet once a month, in the staffroom or another available room. Council Meetings are facilitated by Marian Kennedy or Dervila Kelly. Prior to these meetings, the Student Council representatives collect ideas and suggestions from all classes, for the agenda. These items are then discussed and are brought to Staff Meetings, if required. As well as bringing matters to the Council for discussion, the members are required to report the outcome of meetings to the other classes. The committee will visit each classroom with this report as well as put a notice on the Students Council Notice Board and will post it on our website. An end of year report will be submitted to the BOM.

The Council has an important role to play in the organisation of: Open Days, special occasions, special presentations of Flags/Awards/Certificates etc. and having an input into relevant school policies.

Through our Student Council we hope to give our pupils a more active role in the organisation of our school and ensure they are listened to and respected for their ideas and concerns. It involves the students in many of the decisions that are made

regarding students in St Mary's N.S. Discussions in classes and at Council meetings help to develop social and learning skills in many areas including speaking and listening, problem solving, brainstorming and the decision-making process.

Discussion Topics and Activities

Topics that come under discussion at Student Council meetings may include the following: school rules, behaviour and discipline, green issues, health and safety, health promotion, active school, homework, friendship/anti-bullying, lunchtime games and activities, vandalism, school uniform, fundraising, making yard a happier place, students' yearbook, school tours, occasions and visits.

In an effort to give back to the community and the wider world the student's council will help in the organisation of a fund raiser for a chosen charity each year.

In addition to their role in communicating and problem solving, the Student Council acts as an agent for school news, as journalists and reporters through notices for the School Newsletter, putting up posts on our website & Facebook/Twitter page and putting notices on their own Notice Board. It is hoped that this makes school news more child orientated and more engaging for the student body.

Conclusion

St Mary's NS are very proud of the role played by our students in developing our school and believe that we achieve a more pleasant and vibrant learning environment, as a result.

Ratification and Review

This policy has been ratified by the Board of Management and will be reviewed every two years.

Signed: *Donough A. O'Malley* Chairperson Board of
Management

Date: *7-04-2022*