

## **The Roche School School Council Policy 2018**

### **Introduction**

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for the Class and School Council at The Roche School. This policy was formulated by the School Council Representatives and School Council Coordinator. The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all members of staff at The Roche School.

### **Aims and Objectives**

The aim of the School Council is to provide opportunity for pupils to become partners in their own education and to make a positive contribution to the school environment and ethos. We want to develop and promote children's self confidence, social skills and promote responsible behaviour towards each other and towards their teachers. The Roche School Council aims 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. We want to develop pupils' recognition of themselves as worthwhile individuals with a right to be heard and allow the children to have a 'voice' and to share their opinions and ideas with others. At The Roche we want to allow children to become more responsible and be actively involved in the decision – making process of the school. At The Roche School, we want School Council to develop important life skills that promote 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 class meetings**

Class meetings are held in every class the week of the School Council meeting. They are usually held in a designated PSHE slot. The agenda for the class will be drawn up by the School Council Rep. Opportunities for all children to raise items are provided. The School Council Rep will take notes about issues/ideas discussed and bring them to the next School Council meeting. After each School Council meeting, the School Rep will report back to the class on the issues discussed and the action taken. This should only take 5 minutes of a lesson.

### **School Council Meetings**

School Council meetings are held every other week, depending on the length of the half term. The meeting is held by the School Council Coordinator (Ms Alys) together with the School Council representatives. The meetings usually take place in school on Fridays between (8:30 – 8:45am) in Ms Alys's classroom.

### **School council meeting organisation**

The meetings are run and led by the School Council Reps. After initial induction each School Council Rep takes on a designated role or job. These roles are decided

democratically, using a secret ballot system (Executive Council election) by the School Council.

**Website Officers**– *Help to update the School Council Website together with teacher in charge of Website.*

### **Running the School Council**

The agenda for each School Council Meeting will be drawn up by the Link Teacher together with the Chair and Vice Chairperson. 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. A copy of the agenda will be provided for every School Council Rep for them to follow during the meeting. A School Council Suggestions box will be left outside the school office for every child to write ideas, suggestions and views they have if they are unable to reach their Class Rep. These ideas will be shared and discussed during each school council meeting.

### **Choosing the Representatives**

During the first two weeks of the Autumn Term, teachers in Early Years, 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. Class teachers fill in Election Result sheets and hand them over to the School Council Coordinator immediately after the elections. This process will take place every new school year to allow continuity within the school council.

Pupils elected will serve for one year.

### **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, designated roles, turn taking and discussions. Photographs of the School Council Executives will be taken and displayed on the School Council Notice Board as well as individual class reps. Badges will be given out at an Official ceremony attended by their parents 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.

## **Well being**

It is imperative that children in our care must be well looked after and happy at school. In the light of this therefore, a 'Feelings boxes' has been made and displayed. Writing about how they feel can help a great deal in sorting out issues and help to unclog matters which bother them, which may hinder their learning. This will help foster a happy class and above all a happy school.

## **OUR WATCHWORD**

**You have a voice.**

**We listen.**

**We care.**

**Speak Out!**

**Speak Up!**

**It's The Roche Approach**

This School Council policy has been written by the School Council members on March 5th 2016.