WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF OUR SCHOOL COUNCIL?

The most important purpose of our School Council is to make sure that every child's voice is heard. We believe that every child matters and that everyone should have the opportunity to share their ideas, opinions and suggestions. Our School Council will bring children together to listen, share ideas, solve problems and help make St George's an even better place for everyone.

It will help us to:

- Give every child a voice and make sure their opinions are listened to.
- Make sure children feel valued, included and involved in decisions that affect them.
- Represent the views and ideas of our whole school community.
- Work together to make positive changes to school life.
- Encourage children to take responsibility and understand that their ideas can make a difference.
- Develop confidence, teamwork, leadership and communication skills.
- Learn how democracy works and how decisions can be made fairly.

What kinds of things might our School Council do?

Our School Council will listen to what children think and help find ways to make our school even better. They might:

- Ask children for their opinions through class discussions, questionnaires and surveys.
- Gather ideas about improving our playground, playtimes and lunchtime experiences.
- Suggest ways to improve our classrooms, school environment and facilities.
- Think about how we can make sure everybody feels welcome, safe and included.
- Listen to suggestions about school rules and routines and discuss how they can work well for everyone.
- Share children's ideas with school leaders and governors.
- Help make decisions about how we could improve shared spaces and resources.
- Collect feedback from children about changes that have been made.
- Make sure that children who might find it harder to speak up are also listened to.

How does our School Council link to British Values?

Our School Council gives us a fantastic opportunity to learn about and put the Fundamental British Values into practice.

- Democracy: Everyone has a voice. Children vote for their representatives and have opportunities to share their opinions and influence decisions.
- Individual Liberty: We are encouraged to express our own thoughts, share ideas and make choices, while respecting the rights of others.
- Mutual Respect and Tolerance: We listen to different opinions, respect one another and understand that everyone is important, even when we disagree.
- Rule of Law: We understand why rules are important, how they help keep everyone safe and how rules should be fair and apply to everyone.

How does our School Council link to Catholic Social Teaching?

As a Catholic school, our School Council also reflects the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. These remind us that we are all part of one human family and that we should work together to build a fairer, kinder world.

- Human Dignity – Everyone matters: Every person is made in the image and likeness of God. Every child is unique, important and deserves to be listened to, valued and respected.
- Participation – Everyone has a voice: Everyone has the right and responsibility to take part in their community. Our School Council makes sure children have opportunities to share their ideas and be involved in decisions.
- The Common Good – Thinking of everyone: We should think about what is best for everybody, not just ourselves. School Council representatives consider the needs of the whole class and school when sharing ideas.
- Solidarity – Standing together: We belong to one another and should support each other. Our School Council listens to the needs of others and thinks about how we can make school a place where everyone feels they belong.
- Subsidiarity – Listening to those affected: Decisions should involve the people who are affected by them. This means listening to children and giving them an opportunity to help shape decisions about their school.

Our School Mission and Values

Our School Council will help us live out our mission:

To be the best we can be- together

- KIND: We listen, respect others and make sure everyone feels valued.
- CURIOUS: We ask questions, explore ideas and look for ways to improve.
- COURAGEOUS: We are brave, creative and confident enough to share our ideas and suggest positive changes.

How will our School Council work?

BECOME A SCHOOL COUNCILLOR!

Could you be the voice of your class?

How will our School Council be organised?

- There will be two elected representatives from every class, from Reception to Year 6.
- Representatives will listen to their classmates and gather their ideas.
- They will attend regular School Council meetings to discuss suggestions and possible improvements.
- They will share what has been discussed with their class and report back on any decisions.
- They will make sure that everybody's views are considered, not just their own.

Remember: You are representing your WHOLE class. A good representative listens to everyone, even when they have different opinions.

How can I become a School Council representative?

If you would like to stand for election, you need to prepare something to share with your class explaining why you think you would make a good School Council representative.

You can choose how you would like to present your ideas:

- A speech: Tell your classmates why you would be a good representative.
- A presentation: Use slides or pictures to share your ideas.
- A piece of work: Create a poster, leaflet, mind map or something creative.

What should I include?

Think about these questions:

1. Why would you like to be a School Council representative?
2. What skills and qualities would make you good at the role?
3. Are you a good listener? Can you work well with others?
4. How would you make sure everyone in your class has a voice?
5. What ideas do you have for making our school even better?

Remember our school values:

- KIND: I listen to others and respect their opinions.
- CURIOUS: I ask questions and find out what people think.
- OUTRAGEOUS: I am brave enough to share my ideas and think creatively!

Our election timeline

1. Get preparing!

Think about why you would make a good representative and prepare your speech, presentation or piece of work.

2. Week commencing Monday 23rd November

Candidates will share their speeches, presentations or pieces of work with their classmates.

3. Time to vote!

After listening to the candidates, pupils will vote for the two people they think would best represent their class.

4. Results day

Thursday 26th November

Our newly elected School Council representatives will be announced!

5. Our School Council journey begins!

Representatives will begin attending meetings, listening to their classmates and helping to make positive changes.

Why are we having elections?

Having elections is a great way to learn about democracy.
Democracy means that people have a say and can vote to choose who represents them.
By taking part, we learn:

- Everyone has the right to have their voice heard.
- People can have different opinions and ideas.
- Voting is an important way of making decisions.
- Representatives have a responsibility to speak up for others.
- We should respect the result of a fair vote, even if our chosen candidate isn't elected.

