



ST BERNARD'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL

SCHOOL COUNCIL POLICY

ADVENT 2018

Next Review: Lent 2020

St Bernard's Preparatory School

SCHOOL COUNCIL POLICY

Mission Statement

With God as our shelter and Christ as our guide, the mission of St Bernard's Preparatory School is to educate towards love and service to God, each other and the wider community. Through our broad balanced curriculum we will develop an understanding of each faith and the values we share. We will treat each person with respect, knowing we are special and unique.

St Bernard's is part of the St Benedict's family of schools. All schools in the group share a similar Catholic and Benedictine/Bernardine ethos.

Children's Mission Statement

We follow God's footsteps through our love, our work and our prayer.

INTRODUCTION

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child grants every young person:

"the right to express an opinion and to have that opinion taken into account, in any matter or procedure affecting the child" (Article 12)

St. Bernard's Preparatory School Council enables pupils to learn vital lessons about citizenship through their own experiences in the classroom and in the school as a whole. Through regular discussions and meetings, children will be able to have a say in the school issues that affect them. They will be encouraged to listen to each other and work together to solve problems fairly. This will enable all children to become effective communicators who value and respect the opinions of others.

AIMS

Our main aims are to develop a school community which listens to each other and can work together towards shared goals.

We aim to offer an environment where:

- children feel valued
- children feel safe to speak their opinions
- pupils appreciate the role of the adults in the school
- pupils appreciate their role in school
- teachers listen to pupils and take action when appropriate
- teamwork is enhanced
- children develop self-esteem, confidence and have an ownership of the school

ENTITLEMENT

Each pupil will be given the opportunity to express their view during fortnightly class meetings. They will be informed of the progress of the School Council through regular feedback from their representatives, and will also have time to offer any further ideas.

IMPLEMENTATION

Through assemblies and class discussions children will learn about the nature and purpose of the School Council.

Class suggestions

Issues and suggestions for improvements to the school are collected throughout each month, and placed into each class school council suggestion box. These will be shared at the beginning of the School Council meetings.

School Council

One representative will be nominated from each class. Children volunteer themselves, to ensure enthusiastic and committed representatives; the class will vote for their choice. Children will be encouraged by their class teacher to vote for whom they think has the required skills for such a role, and not just their friends.

- We will endeavour to ensure that different children have the opportunity of experiencing this role.
- Meetings will be held twice monthly during lunchtime (approximately 30 minutes).
- The roles of Secretary, Chair and Vice-Chair will be voted for at the beginning of the school year.

All class representatives will be provided with a book, so that they can record what has been discussed, providing accurate feedback to their classes, during a time set aside by the class teacher.

A School Council file will be created with details of minutes, agendas and on-going work and will be stored in the Co-ordinator's classroom. The minutes from past meetings will be available for all representatives, by asking the member of staff responsible for the School Council.

One member of staff will be delegated the responsibility for facilitating the organisation and co-ordinating the School Council and their regular meetings.

This member of staff, or the Year 5/6 representatives, should provide feedback from the meeting for staff.

The School Council will comprise of:

- Staff Co-ordinator responsible for the School Council
- One representative from each class based from Year 1 to Year 6

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

We aim to create an atmosphere in our school where children feel secure, are motivated and experience success. We aim to develop self-respect, confidence, and respect and tolerance for others and to facilitate our pupils to become good citizens. Through the St. Bernard's Preparatory School Council, we seek to encourage positive attitudes towards the school, regardless of gender, race or ability.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

The school believes that, if nominated, children with special needs will be given an opportunity to succeed in this aspect of school life.

Legal status:

This policy was compiled with reference to developing practice in schools, the requirement of the National Curriculum for PSHE and Citizenship, and using School Councils UK information.

Applies to:

Whole School including Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

Related policies:

SEND, Curriculum, Teaching and Learning

Availability:

This policy is made available to parents on our website www.stbernardsprep.org or a copy may be obtained from the school office on request.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be subject to continuous monitoring, refinement and audit by the Headmaster.

The Trustees will undertake a formal review of this policy for the purpose of monitoring and of the efficiency with which the related duties have been discharged, by no later than three years from the date shown below, or earlier if significant changes to the systems and arrangements take place, or if legislation, regulatory requirements or best practice guidelines so require.

Signed by _____

Headmaster _____

Date _____

Chair of Governors _____

Date _____