

Putnoe Primary School

1 Aims and objectives

1.1 The aim of school council here at Putnoe Primary School is to provide the opportunity for pupils to become partners in their own education and to make a positive contribution to the school environment and ethos. School council develops and promotes children's self-confidence, social skills and their responsible behaviour towards each other and towards their teachers and adult members of staff. We develop the pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding of how to contribute to society as a whole and what it means to be an active citizen. They therefore develop effective speaking and listening skills and the pupil's recognition of themselves as worthy individuals with a right to be heard. We allow the children to have a "voice" and to share their opinions and ideas with others thus children become more responsible and actively involved in the decision-making process of the school. We aim 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.

1.2 The aims of school council in our school are

- Learning to work together
- Learning about democracy
- Learning how to play a positive role in our community
- The school council's job is to involve everyone, not do everything. It needs to get everyone:
 - Finding things they want to change
 - Coming up with ways to make them better
 - Putting those ideas in to action
 - Seeing what works (evaluating)

2 Choosing the class representatives

2.1 Each class from year 3 to Year 6 is to have a representative. During the first two weeks of the Autumn Term, teachers in 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

School Council Policy

counted by the teacher and pupils with the highest number of votes are elected as class council representatives. In the case of two children having the same amount of votes a revote should take place. Once elected the school council member then has a responsibility to attend all school council meetings.

3 Equality

- 3.1** Each class will elect a representative not biased on gender, race, age or ability. Link teacher to be aware of the needs of the children in the school council and to identify which children in the school council are Pupil Premium to ensure that they make the same progress in confidence as any other pupil.

4 More Able

- 4.1** Once children are elected the link teacher has a responsibility to obtain ability information in order to support the children reach their full potential in their school council role. If a 'More Able' child is selected the member of staff leading school council is to support the child in leading the school council in tasks in order to develop their skills and confidence to suit the need of the child.

5 Organisation and Structure

- 5.1** School council meetings will be held once a week. The meetings will take place at lunchtime and led by the pupils who will be known as the school council representatives. A Chair Person will be elected to lead the meetings alongside the teacher adviser. Representatives can put forward items for the agenda, there will be at least one main issue on the agenda for each council meeting as well as opportunities for all representatives to discuss other ideas raised by pupils in their class. A School Council Secretary will be elected to take the minutes and copy them to all the representatives. Minutes will be displayed on the school council website which is to be updated termly. The Council will be under the direct oversight of the link teacher and the council cannot: Intervene in the control or management of the school, intervene in the educational instruction of pupils, intervene in the management or operation of a school day or exercise authority over teaching staff or other persons employed at the school. The link teacher is responsible for making sure the meetings happen and to pass on any information to the Head teacher. The Head teacher will then explain why things can or cannot happen for pupils to report back to their classes.

5.2 When you give your class representative an idea, she or he will:

- Note it down
- Take it to the next school council meeting
- Tell you what is happening to your idea within two weeks

The school council will try to make your idea happen by getting:

- Permission
- Support
- Money
- Time

If they can't they will tell you why not. If they can, they will want your class to help make your idea happen. There will also be a suggestion box available in the library for children to put across their ideas.

6 Teaching and learning

6.1 School council aims to develop a positive attitude for all children within their learning through allowing children to reflect on their school experiences and how they can improve it. School council works alongside the four R's of teaching and learning. A school council member will have to; be resilient in the ability to see suggestions through to completion; be reflective in being able to consider ideas of others and the review what would be good for the school; have reciprocity in working with other school council members and members of staff; be resourceful in completing aims and suggestions in a variety of ways.

6.2 School council members will support the teaching in learning of the school by supporting other events within the school curriculum. School council representatives are responsible for 'allowing a voice' for the reflection of the school's curriculum, teaching and learning.

7 Global Learning

7.1 School council are to support global learning through fundraising for both Children in Need and Comic/Sports Relief on a yearly basis. School council are responsible for leading and running fundraising activities. The member of staff leading school council should make lessons/assembly available so that all children in the school are exposed to the reasons behind raising money to support the charities.

8 Assessment

8.1 The success of school council is to be measured on the school council's contribution to the school ethos and its ability to allow pupil voice. School council members should demonstrate self-confidence and a responsible behaviour towards each other and towards their teachers and adult members of staff. Questionnaires with pupils can take place to measure the effectiveness of the school councils aims.

9 Mental Health and Wellbeing

- 9.1** School council aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to become partners in their own education and to make a positive contribution to the school environment and ethos. They will promote the equality and wellbeing of all members of the school so that each child feels they are in a safe and happy environment; using school council as a tool to put forward their pupil voice.

10 Monitoring and review

- 10.1** The organisation and structure of the school council is to be monitored by the supporting member of staff on a weekly basis in order to fit the needs of the school at the time.

Signed:

Date: