

Windmill Hill School council development project

Our School Council

At Windmill Hill School, we actively engage students as participants in their education and in making a positive contribution to their school and local community.

Our School Council represents the views of all our students and it gives young people the opportunity to make their voices heard and feel part of the whole school community.

Who is the Student Council?

The Windmill Hill School Council is made up of elected representatives from different classes, across the school.

Their role is to represent the views of students in their department/ Key Stage, to celebrate what is working well and to discuss ideas on how to improve our school.

The Student Council gives students the opportunity to play an active role in decisions that affect them. They plan and review the actions taken as well as taking responsibility for how these will happen.

The School Council provides a meaningful way in which all students can voice their opinions and have their views taken into account in decisions that impact them.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Student Council have elected a Chair and a Vice Chair who support the overall decision making process. The members of the Student Council, work in collaboration with the Headteacher, and the Governing Body.

All members have the opportunity to:

- Express both their own views and those of other students.
- Communicate students' thoughts and feelings with the school leaders.
- Attend regular meetings.
- Actively engage in creating positive changes.

Why join the School Council?

student's voice encourages young people to become active members of a democratic society.

The Council help develop skills, such as collaboration and communication, and encourage students to take responsibility for their decisions.

students involved in making decisions benefit in a variety of different ways: increased confidence, self-esteem, ability and a greater sense of responsibility.

How to join the Student Council?

- Every student has a chance to apply to join the Student Council
- Fill in the application form and leave it in the (Student Council box in the Dining Hall by 25th September)
- You can ask peers or adults to help you or chose one of the alternative formats

Even if you choose not to say much, or if you need a little time to share your views with others, you will learn in an environment where you can be confident that your input is valued and respected.



Listening to all students

We try to ensure that all students have their views listened to and often acted upon. What students have told us has impacted on many areas of the school life. For example we have developed our playground, school mini buses, enrichment activities, off site visits, school lunch menu and many other areas.

Having a Positive Impact on the Wider Community

One of their key areas of the Student Council is to decide upon activities for charity events and fundraising projects, including inviting visitors and arranging activities.

Another role is as tour guides for visitors. They are keen to tell visitors the things that they have changed to make our school a better place!

Student Council members are also invited to write and ask questions and become part of the recruitment process of new staff.

They hold regular meetings to collect ideas and have influenced decision making at a School, Trust and local authority level.

The Student Council provide regular feedback to the Governing Board, and parents through surveys and reports.

Project focus

Citizenship: Nominating and electing a new School Council

Targeted groups across school:

This is a whole school approach: all Students, Teachers, Teaching Assistants, Senior Leadership Team, Administration Team, Site Manager and parents.

Timeline:

25 th September	Staff nominations of students for the School Council
2 nd October	Chairman and Vice Chairman results shared with the whole school
2 nd October	Whole school elections for additional School Council members
13 th October	New School Council results shared with the whole school
20 th October	School Council members received certificates to celebrate and congratulate them on their new role
20 th October	School Council members supported the interview process of appointing a new teacher.

Key learning objectives and Outcomes of this project:

Aims/ Objectives Action	Intended Outcomes (Tick and date, once completed)	Staff	Monitoring
Whole school project: To nominate and elect Windmill Hill new School Council. To develop the role of Windmill Hill School Council via regular meetings	To create a proactive School Council. To have a clear vision for the School taken from the students directly: Pupil Voice.	Whole school	Updates and information to be organised in curriculum folder (School council), Dining Hall display and shared on the School website.

Parent/carers and community involvement:

- The website will be updated throughout the project
- Some parents could be invited in to school to take part in the election process.
- Governors could also be invited to vote and take part in the election process.
- All School Council members' parents/carers will be informed that their child has been elected; and possibly in some cases the reason why.
- The whole school team will be kept informed throughout the whole process via regular emails and announcements in staff meetings/briefings.

School council format:

The School Council are to meet 3 times a year, once every half term:

1st meeting: Action plan/target setting

2nd meeting = Action plan 'check point'

3rd meeting = Evaluation of action plan

- **Attendance of participants.**
- **Welcome**
- **Jobs assigned to council members**
- **Aims of meeting**
- **Pupil voice**
- **Any other business**