

Newton International School Lagoon Campus



“An international community of learners striving for excellence and celebrating success”

Student Council Policy

Last Reviewed Date: 13th June 2021

Reviewed by: J Kingham, Deputy Head of Pastoral - Primary

Next Review Date: 13th June 2022

1. Purpose and Aims

Our vision At Newton International School is to provide a happy, caring stimulating and diverse cultural environment that allows students to develop high self-esteem, excellent social and academic outcomes and achieve their fullest potential. We value each child and aim to build relationships of trust and mutual respect, where pupils are encouraged to take an active part in the Lagoon making process. We aim to offer a safe, happy and fair learning environment and believe pupils have the right to be listened to and consulted when appropriate.

2. Why is the School Council important?

The School Council allows students to:

- Feel valued as part of an inclusive, caring community.
- Promote positive attitudes of self-respect and self-esteem.
- Learn to express our own feelings, whilst valuing the needs and opinions of others.
- Learn about democracy.
- Learn to take on responsibilities and make valued contributions.
- Develop life skills of speaking, debating, planning, listening, empathy, collaborating, negotiating and problem solving.
- Learn how to play a positive, active role in our community, by learning about roles, rights and responsibilities.
- Promote a sense of responsibility and ownership within the school community.

3. What is the role of the School Council?

The school council's job is to involve everyone, not do everything. It needs to get everyone:

- The children will decide their aims and priorities.
- Keeping each other safe by highlighting problems
- Finding things they want to change.
- Coming up with ideas about how to make them better.
- Putting those ideas in to action.
- Evaluating actions and deciding what works.

4. How will it be supported and encouraged?

All pupils throughout school will play an active part in making Lagoon's decisions about school issues by suggesting ideas to their Key Stage 2 year group School Council representatives on the school council or their Key Stage 1 Class Teacher.

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Meetings will be held with the DHOP-Pastoral on a regular basis, monthly or fortnightly, to encourage pupils to develop ideas, collect information and make Lagoons in respect of school development.

School Council representatives will give monthly feedback to their year group during assemblies or by class visits. The School Council will have a communal display board on each floor to share actions taken and student survey results. This allows all children to share ownership and responsibility of the Lagoon making process.

5. How does our School Council work?

- Four Class representatives from each KS2 year group are chosen (from each house).
- The Student leadership, Head prefects and House captains are also members of the School Council.
- Monthly meetings with the DHOP-P where student ideas and feedback on SLT actions are shared.
- We will listen to the minutes and/or actions from the School Council meeting in our class assemblies and add our own ideas in return.

6. What will the school council do for our class?

When you give your Year group 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.
- You can also put ideas into the School Council suggestion, which will be emptied and taken to school council meetings.

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

- Permission
- Support
- Money
- Time

8. What will staff do for the school council?

- Make sure meetings happen when they are supposed to.
- Support pupils to run meetings.
- The DHOP-Pastoral will convey the School Council's ideas to the Head and the Principal who will answer the school council's questions.
- If the Principal has to say 'no' to anything, she/he will explain why.
- Ensure a communal School Council display is kept on each floor to share actions and student survey results.

9. How will we measure it?

We shall review our progress by surveying all pupils and staff and looking for evidence that.....

- Everyone understands the importance of the School Council.
- Everyone involved values the importance of the School Council and is actively encouraging and supporting it.
- Children feel their ideas are valued and listened to and can explain how they know.
- Changes have come about which have been initiated by children are recognised as such with all stakeholders.