

School Council: plans for 2019-20

Membership of School Council

There are 18 reps on School Council: 6 from Year 8 and 4 from every other year group. The House Captains are automatically the Year 8 reps. In every other year group there are 2 girls and 2 boys elected by all pupils in their year group through a Year Group Assembly in September.

Elections to School Council

The elections are announced in the first week of term, with heads of year providing pupils with information on how to stand for election. The speeches and elections will be in special Year Group Assemblies in the week starting Monday 16 September. Every pupil in the year group gets a ballot paper and votes (after the candidates have made 1-minute speeches) in assembly. Mr Snowden will count the votes and the elected reps will be announced on Monday 23 September.

Responsibilities of School Council reps

Reps are responsible for gathering ideas and views from their peers. They attend a training session (on Wednesday 25 September) and a further eleven meetings during the year, where they represent pupils in their year group in discussions. They report back to their year group assemblies after meetings.

They will be asked to represent the school on occasions and will be involved in communicating what School Council is doing, e.g. delivering key stage assemblies, writing for the website or updating displays. They will be involved in organising and promoting the school's fundraising, community links and rights respecting schools agenda. They must wear the school council badge at all times in school.

Standard agenda of a meeting

1. Attending and apologies
2. Following up actions from the last meeting
3. Fundraising
4. Community links
5. Rights Respecting School
6. Representing the school
7. Communications
8. Having our say on school issues

Point 8 is the most important and will have much longer than other items.

School Council Training

The training session is all morning on Wednesday 25 September will cover:

Lesson One: Pupil voice and being a rights respecting school

Lesson Two: How School Council works (introductions, calendar, membership, elections, responsibilities, specific roles, meeting agenda, rules, qualities of a rep, communication)

Lesson Three: Discussing the Action Plan for 2019-2020

ACTION PLAN (draft version for discussion on 25 September 2019)

1. School Council processes

- Introduce proper elections in Year 5, 6 and 7 through Year Group assemblies in September, with short speeches by candidates
- Have a training session for a full morning, attended by all reps, in September
- Ensure every meeting is minuted and the minutes are put on the school website and copies go in register bags for reps and form teachers
- Ensure every meeting is followed up by two of the house captains meeting Mr Bennett to discuss our recommendations
- Agree an action plan which underpins discussions in meetings throughout the year and use this as the basis for meeting agendas

2. Fundraising

- Give Year 5 and Year 6 school council reps the chance to help with the Macmillan coffee morning
- Have Year 7 and Year 8 school council reps running Children in Need stalls
- Do the shortlisting of charities for the sponsored walk and make sure everyone gets a vote on the charities (only Y5 and Y8 had full votes last time)
- Investigate if Year 6 could raise more money for the Tynedale Hospice at Home

3. Wider community

- Develop a stronger link with our neighbouring care home
- Further develop links with the community orchard
- Sustain eco-school initiatives like soup share, switch off fortnight and harvest festival

- Investigate introducing cycling to school (including issues of safe routes and a bike shelter)
- Meet with members of the parish councils to discuss local safety issues

4. Rights Respecting School

- Investigate if further work can be done with Anne Frank Trust on our Rights Respecting Schools agenda
- Establish the routine of sharing Right of the Week in form time
- Expand the Local Democracy Week event in October to Year 7 as well as Year 8

5. Representing the school

- Have School Council reps present information to the Governing Body in February
- Include a student panel, involving reps, in any staff appointments
- Involve school council reps in any local pupil voice events
- See if school council reps can give new or prospective pupils tours of the school

6. Communications

- Look into creating a school newsletter (that others could help with)
- Have media reps who see if we can get OMS success stories into the local press
- Have a display board which includes photos of school council reps
- Introduce the routine of reps reporting back in Year Group assemblies after every meeting
- Have 2 meetings a year in an ICT suite to work on assemblies, website news, display board etc
- Deliver key stage assemblies about School Council in January and June

7. Having our say (these are general topics – reps to formulate ideas on 25 Sept)

- outdoor and play equipment
- anti-bullying policy
- rewards systems
- food and lunch times

School Council calendar 2019-20

Autumn term

Week starting Mon 16 Sept: elections of reps in special Year Group Assemblies

Mon 23 Sept: announcement of election results

Wed 25 Sept: School Council training (all morning)

Tues 15 Oct, lesson one: School Council meeting

Tues 12 Nov, lesson five: School Council meeting

Fri 6 Dec, lesson one: School Council meeting

Spring term

Tues 14 Jan, lesson one: School Council ICT room session (preparation of assemblies, website reports, display board etc)

Mon 20 Jan: KS3 assembly about School Council

Tues 21 Jan: KS2 assembly about School Council

Tues 4 Feb: Some School Council reps present to the governors' meeting, 6pm

Tues 11 Feb, lesson five: School Council meeting

Wed 4 March, lesson one: School Council meeting

Wed 25 March, lesson three: School Council meeting

Summer term

Tues 28 April, lesson five: School Council meeting

Thurs 21 May, lesson one: School Council meeting

Tues 9 June, lesson one: School Council ICT room session (preparation of assemblies, website reports, display board etc)

Mon 15 June: KS3 assembly about School Council

Tues 16 June: KS2 assembly about School Council

Fri 3 July, lesson one: School Council meeting