

The Student Council

The Evolution and Vocational Centre believe that the Student Council has an important role to play in teaching our students about citizenship, social, moral cultural and spiritual development and allowing them to have a clear voice within school:

- Young people have a right to be involved in decisions that concern them (see article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child)
- Student councils are a very good way for students to learn about democracy; representing others, chairing meetings, minute taking and responsibility.
- Respect for the opinions of young people helps to create a well-ordered school, by teaching about rights and responsibilities.

The Constitution

Aims:

- To provide a forum through which students can raise issues which concern them and make suggestions about aspects of school life.
- To provide a means of communication between students and staff.
- To create a structure through which students can be consulted.
- To encourage student responsibility and involvement in whole school issues.
- To encourage action on areas of identified need.

Composition:

Each tutor group will send at least one representative to attend school council. The council will allocate roles at each meeting. The council meetings will be attended by at least one teaching representative, other adults may be invited as appropriate. Staff members do not have voting rights at council meetings.

Frequency of meetings

The student council will meet regularly, ideally weekly depending on the amount of business to be completed. If necessary, an emergency meeting can be called by the chair person with the agreement of the staff representative.

Communication

All student council meetings should be minuted. Following each meeting these minutes should be typed and circulated to tutor groups with a copy being placed on the relevant notice board and on the Public Drive.

Role of the staff representative/head teacher

- Facilitate the forming of agreed ground rules for meetings e.g. taking turns, listening, minute taking etc.
- Offer advice and guidance when requested to do so.
- Help in the preparation for meetings.
- To ensure requests are taken seriously and action taken as agreed in the meeting.

Ground Rules

Do:

- Listen to other people
- Make sure everybody's point of view counts
- Treat everyone equally and with respect (the council may vote to suspend any member who fails to do this)
- Create a good atmosphere
- Make sure you provide the views of others in your tutor group even if they are not the same as your own views.

Don't:

- Be afraid to speak out
- Keep important things to yourself
- Make jokes about important things
- Loose your temper or use abusive and insulting language

The student council is responsible for the behaviour of students at its meetings and should deal with any misbehaviour.

The success of the school council will be reviewed periodically by the council itself, by teaching staff, care staff and through the feedback collected from students. Following review alterations to the structure and functioning of the council might be suggested.