



Pupil Voice Guidelines

Adopted by Governing Body: 17.10.17

Reviewed by Governing Body: 19.10.21

Next Review: 3 years

Statutory Policy: No

Rationale

We believe that children need to be active participants in their own education and to feel that their opinions will be heard in the wider school community. At Pitcheroak School, we therefore seek ways to listen to the views of our pupils and involve them in decision making so that they are engaged in the life of the school. We believe that this will make a positive contribution to the school environment and ethos.

Student voice and pupil participation activities at Pitcheroak School

There is a wide range of approaches that we are developing at Pitcheroak School to support pupil participation and promote student voice:

1. School Council
2. Playground Buddies - peer to peer support
3. Lunchtime Buddies – older students helping younger ones
4. Sports Coaching - peer to peer support
5. House activities – vertical grouping
6. Fundraising campaigns (both teacher and pupil initiated)
7. Questionnaires on evaluation of learning activities/the curriculum
8. Consultation as part of Annual Reviews
9. Pupil questionnaires
10. Pupils are informed of the outcome of their involvement via the School Council display board

Curriculum

We also believe pupil voice should impact the curriculum, with teaching and learning activities being used to enable pupils to focus on how to make informed decisions about their lives, their health, wellbeing and the environment, for example. Extra-curricular activities, such as Eco School, also gives pupils a scope to explore issues that go beyond academic subjects.

School Council

One of the principle means by which pupil voice activity is progressed in school is by the use of the School Council. We believe that our school council will enhance and influence positive peer leadership and mutual responsibility throughout the school.

School Council will

1. Be a positive forum
2. Provide an opportunity for all children to be heard
3. Provide a forum for the leadership of the school to listen to children's knowledge and opinions
4. Aid communication throughout the school
5. Build the children's confidence and self-esteem
6. Encourage the children to be active citizens
7. Provide the children with a democratic model

School Council will also be used to assist the school with its self-evaluation procedures and enable us to be more accountable to the whole school community.

School Council in Practice

School Council organise the recruitment of their own members, using a voting system that involves all pupils of the school, ensuring representation of all year groups. Every class elects at least two School Council Representatives. School Council membership will consist of a member of staff, who will generally chair the meeting, the School Council Representatives, and an invited adult guest such as a School Governor.

Every class has a suggestions for school council box. This is an opportunity for the School Council Representatives to gather ideas to take to the half-termly meetings. School Council meetings are scheduled on the school calendar and take place throughout the school year.

At each meeting, those present and absent are noted, and apologies read out. Matters arising from the previous meeting are discussed, followed by business for the meeting in accordance with the agenda. Minutes are recorded and circulated to staff and school council representatives to share with their peers.

Benefits of pupil involvement

There is a range of benefits in greater participation. For pupils these include increased self-confidence and feelings of empowerment, and a greater sense of responsibility.

Behaviour has the potential to improve with pupils taking greater responsibility for their own behaviour, as well as improved learning.

We believe that there is a positive impact of pupil participation on their own work and the school environment.

Pupils' learning will improve when their views are taken into consideration. This can only have a positive impact on raising standards.

Developing a whole school approach

To encourage a consistent, positive attitude to pupil participation at Pitcheroak School, the whole staff, including the non-teaching staff, should understand the benefits of pupil participation, be clear in their role in terms of supporting pupil participation and be kept well informed about issues being discussed and proposals put forward by the school council and other pupil representative groups.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Pupil participation and pupil voice are monitored and evaluated by the Head of Key Stage 3 and the Headteacher.