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**STUDENT COUNCIL POLICY**

***Our School Ethos states***

***In St.Beacon’s we hope to promote the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the pupil,intellectual, physical, cultural , moral and spiritual, including a living relationship with God and with other people***

**Scope**

Whole school (students, parents, teachers, and management)

**Relationship to school’s mission**

A student council is a representative structure for students only, through

which they can become involved in the affairs of the school. This ties in

with the school’s mission statement and our aims can be achieved through a well organised student council.

**Rationale**

The Education Act (1998) Section 27 states that Boards of Management

must encourage and give all reasonable assistance to students in the

formation and running of student councils.

The National Children’s Strategy states that children and young people will

have a voice in matters that affect their lives and be provided with

opportunities to participate in decision making

Every child should have their voice heard, understood and responded to.

This will enable them to become active participants in their communities.

Developing confidence, communication skills and being happier as a result

of being involved with school and student council, help children develop.

A student council shall promote the interests of the school and the

involvement of students in the affairs of the school.

**Goals/objectives**

Effective school councils should engender peer leadership, openness and

awareness.

Students involved with the council should develop essential life skills, such

as listening, diplomacy, compromise and communication.

Student councils should make a positive contribution to every aspect of a

school community. They should improve academic performance, reduce

bullying and vandalism and improve teacher-pupil relations.

**Policy content**

**Setting up a student council**

The Education Act (1998) Section 27 states that Boards of Management must

encourage and give all reasonable assistance to students in the formation and

running of student councils. As a result in September 2019 work began on the

establishment of a student council in St. Beacon’s

**Election procedure**

Elections take place in September each year

Each class from 1st -6th will have two class representatives

Each student interested in representing their class at Student Council must

nominate themselves

Students will then be able to vote on official ballot paper for their chosen

candidate.

Results are tabulated by Principal and one other teacher.

**The Student Council at work**

Meetings will be held every month.

Student Council Mission Statement and Constitution will be drawn up by

the council, job descriptions will also be clarified.

Feedback from each meeting will be given to class groups.

**Agenda Setting:**

Topics must come through class representatives and must then be

submitted to the student council suggestion box in school hall a week before the

meeting so as an agenda can be typed up and displayed.

**Meetings**

Once the agenda has been set items are discussed at the monthly meeting.

Decisions are reached by a vote, carried by a simple majority.

The student council facilitating teacher present at each meeting can clarify

certain issues.

**Students should:**

Participate fully in the student council.

Nominate suitable candidates to represent their class.

Discuss genuine issues in a constructive manner.

Support the work of council representatives.

**Elected class representatives should:**

Represent their class in a mature and constructive manner.

Attend all meetings.

Make a genuine effort to improve the school.

Work to become positive role models for the rest of the student body.

**Parents should:**

Encourage students to participate in the student council

**Teachers should:**

Facilitate students in participating fully in school planning and decision

making.

Nominate two members of the management committee.

**Success criteria**

The success of this policy can be judged by student’s involvement and

attitude towards the student council. Improvements should be seen in

relation to academic performance, the reduction of bullying and vandalism

and an overall improvement in teacher-pupil relations.

This policy was put in place in September 2019 and is reviewed on an annual basis

Latest review in 2023 September meeting.

Signed: …………………………….. Principal Date:……………..

Signed: …………………………….. Teacher Date:…………….