

Student Council Policy

Introduction

St. Luke's NS considers it important that the pupils should play an active, positive role in the life of their school and believes that our Student Council helps to achieve this.

Rationale

The Student Council of St. Luke's NS has been set up to ensure that the student population in the school are represented at all levels of the decision making process and that their voice acts as a guiding and inspirational force for the betterment of the school.

Aims

The role of the Student Council is to:

- provide an opportunity for pupils to voice their opinions and offer suggestions in relation to many aspects of school life
- discuss issues relevant to our school and encourage and promote initiatives from the pupils
- offer an opportunity for all pupils to voice their opinions on proposed changes and thereby play a very significant role in improving our school
- act as a channel of communication within the school organization between pupils and between home and school
- encourage pupils to organize events central to the life of the school
- provide an opportunity to raise funds for charities or for school funds.

Relationship to school Ethos

St. Luke's NS recognises the importance of giving children the opportunity to be involved in making decisions that directly impact them. We also believe in the importance of children having a voice and being given a platform to use that voice in order for the development of a school that is inclusive, progressive and is a positive learning environment.

Membership of the Student Council

- A total of 10 pupils will sit on the Student Council
- These pupils will be elected from applicants from Junior Infants to 6th class and the ASD class.
- There will be 2 pupils elected from each class group
- In the interest of gender equity and to ensure that the relevant interests of boys and girls are represented equally, we will endeavor to ensure that our council will be made up of 5 boys and 5 girls.

Selection Process

Pupils from the aforementioned classes will be given the opportunity to make a written submission stating their interest and intention to sit on the Student Council. Written submission will come in the form of a standard application form (See Appendix A).

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- Applications will then be assessed and used as the criteria for selection of candidates.
- Teachers will be responsible for assessing the applications and selecting the student council candidates based on the strengths of their application form.
- This is done by the student council organizing teachers.
- The process is repeated on an annual basis which gives all pupils multiple opportunities to sit on the council throughout their school life in St. Luke's
- Pupils in the school will be asked to elect a candidate from their classes through a secret ballot.

Election of Officers

Officers of the council will be elected democratically and through a process of mutual agreement and discussion amongst members of the Council.

Officer roles include:

- Chairperson
- Deputy Chairperson
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Public Relations/Communication Officers

Duties associated with the above roles will be communicated with the children at the beginning of their term in office.

Meetings

Meetings will be held on the first Friday of every month in the ASD Class upstairs. A staff member will attend and facilitate the meetings. The Council will aim to meet once per term with members of the PA and BOM.

Depending on the time of the year and upcoming events, extra meetings of the Council may need to be rescheduled.

Role of the Council

- Promote the School's Ethos
- Provide an opportunity for pupils to voice their opinions and offer suggestions in relation to many aspects of school life.
- Actively engage with the development of our School Improvement Plan each year.
- Enhance and improve our Positive behaviour in school.
- Engage with and work alongside other current and future committees in the school e.g. Green School and Active School.
- Attend meetings with BOM and PA members.
- Provide a vision for the school which ensures that the wishes of children are always central to future plans.
- Coordinate and assist with fundraising events in the school.
- Organize and participate in pupil mentoring and 'buddy' programmes such as reading with infants.

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- Provide advice and insight into purchasing of school equipment and resources.
- Help to organize extracurricular activities.

Communication

Our student council will communicate with the whole school community through:

- School website
- School Newsletters
- Facebook
- Notice board
- Announcements in class

The Council will be required to communicate their vision and aims with the whole school community – pupils, teachers, SNAs, other staff, parents and BOM.

The Council will provide opportunities for pupils and other members of the school community to communicate with them on matters that they would like addressed. This will be done through the use of a Council Post Box.

Student Council is required to inform the whole school community of projects undertaken, progress being made and action plans drafted on a monthly basis.

Term of Office

The elected council will sit for a period of one school year and will be dissolved at the end of each school year in June.

Members may sit on the council for more than one term but must reapply and be elected for the role in September. Pupils can serve a maximum of two terms on the council.

Success Criteria

The success of the council will be judged by its ability to improve and enhance the learning opportunities, social opportunities and programmes provided by the school to pupils.

The Council will review their work at the last meeting of the year and provide a brief report to the BOM which will acknowledge successes and provide recommendations for the forthcoming year.

Ratification of Policy, Review and Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed by the Board of Management periodically every 4 years.

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on 14/9/23

Signed: [Signature]
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: [Signature]
Principal

Date: 14/9/23
Next Review Date: January 2027

Date: 19/9/23

Appendix A – Student Council Application Form

Name: _____ Class: _____

As a member of the student council of St. Luke's NS, you would be expected to actively improve and enhance the learning opportunities, social opportunities and programmes provided by the school to the pupils.

In 20 words, describe why you would be a good Student Council member and a good leader:

Please list 3 changes you would like to make to school life that would improve children's learning and life in St. Luke's:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Finally – Why would you like to be on the student council of St. Luke's NS?
