

Introduction

Brampton's school council is an elected body of pupils who represent their classes and are responsible for:

- highlighting issues on behalf of pupils;
- seeking solutions to issues raised;
- collecting evidence of pupil voice regarding questions raised by both pupils and teachers and relating to school priorities;
- promoting special events and causes (for example, Walking on Wednesday);
- overseeing the school's charitable and fundraising work.

What kind of person makes a good school council member?

- **Approachable and a good listener** - everyone in the class has to feel comfortable talking to the representative from their class.
- **Organised** - it will be the school council members' responsibility to make sure meetings happen in their class each week during class council, to be responsible for the school folder and for reminding the teacher to complete their WoW (Walk on Wednesday) posters.
- **Reliable and a team player**- members of the school council are expected to consistently attend weekly meetings, meaning that they have to be willing to miss one playtime a week as part of their commitment to the school council. They need to be able to get on with a range of other people from across the school.
- **Assertive** - the opinions of the class are important and need to be shared with the

management of the school, with the Chair of Governors and other outside agencies (e.g. school meals service) so the school council member needs to be confident that they will be able to get their point of view across and be able to follow up any action points agreed.

- **Efficient** - class discussions must cover a lot of issues in a short space of time so school council members need to be confident that they can ensure that they can keep their class on track during discussions.
- **Fair, trustworthy and honest** - everyone has the right to express a point of view and it is important that the views of everyone is expressed, not just the views of the school council member or just the school council members' friends.
- **Good communicator and role model** - school councillors need to be able to work with staff and students from across the school so it is important that the school council member has good manners, is articulate and shows in their attitude that they want to help.

The Election Process

It is important to have a fair and transparent election process. Pupils should be given information on the role of the school council and what it means to be a school council member so that they have a clear idea of what is expected. Pupils should be nominated by a peer and then give a short presentation explaining what they would make a good councillor. There should be a democratic election for councillors, by secret ballot.

During class council meetings in the last half term of the summer term, nominations and elections will be held in each class.

It is important to understand that the school council representative is chosen by the class and not by the teacher and that the outcome should be respected by the whole class.

The names of the children nominated will be written onto a ballot paper:

Voting Slip: Class

Place an X next to the person who you want to be the next school council representative for your class.

Responsibilities of the school council

Short-term

- To understand and follow the school council ground rules
- To attend weekly school council meetings, contribute, take notes, report back to class and maintain a presentable folder of records of meetings
- Contribute to the agenda each week by suggesting school council projects
- To facilitate the weekly class council meetings

- Be able to listen to different points of view and share the consensus of the class rather than any contradicting personal views
- Wear the school council badge everyday so that others know who the school council representative is
- Collect information weekly regarding Walking on Wednesday and school uniform.

Medium-term

- To meet regularly with the head teacher and the chair of governors
- Help to plan and/or deliver assemblies about issues that school council have raised
- To represent the school at local or national meetings and events
- Help to write articles, newsletters and other contributions to the school bulletin, the website and other media
- To contribute to the school council display boards
- Contribute towards staff recruitment by meeting with potential school leaders
- Take part in learning walks around the school to provide a snapshot of the school from a child's point of view

Long-term

- To be a positive role-model for the other children in the school whilst being a school councillor and afterwards
- To support the school in our goal to build personal success for everyone.
- Develop active life skills that can be used with other people and in other settings
- Evaluate and celebrate the achievements of the school council

- Contribute to school priorities such as anti-bullying, healthy schools, the school travel plan, the promotion of reading etc.

REMEMBER

Occasionally, the school council will be asked to contribute ideas when the school is organising special events (for example ideas around fundraising, promoting the summer reading challenge etc.); they will be asked to take part in activities run by outside agencies for the school (for example litter picking with Clean Up UK) and they will be asked to represent the school on educational visits or for the local media (e.g. during a visit to the Houses of Parliament or talking about raising money for a local charity). During these times, the school council is expected to demonstrate a high level of engagement and commitment to the project/event and communicate the benefits of the project to the other children in their class and to others in their community.

School Council Team

If you have questions or queries regarding the school council at Brampton Primary School then please speak to:



Mr Kevin Reid
Headteacher



Mrs Marie Hardie
Deputy Headteacher



Building Personal Success

Brampton Primary School

School Council Policy

Quick Reference Guide for Pupils

