

Student Council Policy

Oylegate NS

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Oylegate NS holds that the pupils should play an active, positive role in the life of the school and we believe that our Student Council helps to achieve this.

Our School's Student Council is comprised of two representatives (one male, one female) from each class from second to sixth. The Council meets the Principal at intervals throughout the school year. The sixth class pupils chair the meetings after some initial training.

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 the 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 important role in improving our school
- Act as a channel for communication within the school, between pupils and between home and school
- Encourage pupils and thereby their parents to organise events central to the life of the school
- Provide an opportunity to raise funds for charities or our school equipment fund.

Through our Student Council, we hope to give the pupils a positive role in the organisation of the school and thus ensure they feel they are listened to and respected for their ideas and concerns, and that these are both valued and valuable. It involves the pupils in many of the decisions, which are made regarding the day-to-day running and management of the school. Discussions in classes and at the Council meetings helps to develop social and learning skills in many areas such as speaking and listening, problem solving and decision-making and the decision-making process.

From time to time the Student Council will discuss, make suggestions and decisions on topics such as:

- School rules
- Anti-Bullying
- Friendship
- Lunchtime games and activities
- Behaviour and discipline
- Making the yard a happy place
- Care for the building
- Promotion of initiatives e.g. frásaí na seachtaine
- Health and safety
- Uniform
- Homework
- Fundraising

School News

In addition to their role in communication and problem solving, the Student Council can act as an agent for the school news: as journalists and reporters, editors, production assistants and distributors. It is hoped that this makes the school news more child-centered and orientated. They may also provide suggestions and material for the school web page and learn the process of constructing the page.

Election

In September, each class elects new members to represent them on the Student Council. Each class elects two members, one male and one female. Each pupil seeking election puts his or her name forward and candidates must have the approval of their class teacher. They are pupils who have a good attitude to school and to work. Prior to the election, the classes are encouraged to discuss the role before the children can stand for election.

The pupils elected are required to be actively involved in the Council, to attend meetings regularly and participate in activities and be a role model for other pupils. As well as bringing matters to the council for discussion, the representatives are required to report the outcome of meetings to their own class and occasionally to other younger classes. Each year the council decides on its own hands-on activities which might include items such as organising charity events or welcoming visitors to the school.

Election Tips

1. Discuss the function of a school council with each class i.e. representatives from each class come together to discuss ideas and suggestions to improve the school and/or to change something about the school or school life.
2. The school council gives a voice to the student body, to express its thoughts and suggestions on school issues, and to contribute to the management of the school.
3. Students nominate themselves for the school council within their own class. They must tell the class why they would like to be a school councillor, and why they would be a good candidate.
4. Each pupil elects a candidate through a ballot election. This is a good time to discuss voting and how elections work in the adult world.
5. Stress to the pupils that they should vote for the person they think will make a good councillor and not just a friend.