



Role and Purpose of the Student Council

September 2021

Role and Purpose of the Student Council

St Eunan's 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 third to sixth and two representing the Junior Classes. The Council is run along the lines of the Green Schools Group and meets with two teachers, one being the Principal or Deputy Principal who acts as Assistant Chair. The sixth class pupils chair the meetings after some initial training. Due to Covid the teachers may meet with students from each class separately and ensure physical distancing.

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 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:

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| • school rules | •our Anti Bullying Code |
| • friendship | •lunchtime games and activities |
| • behaviour and discipline | •making the yard a happy place |
| • care for the building | •vandalism |
| • health and safety | •uniform |
| • parents/homework | •fundraising |

School News

They also provide suggestions and material for the school web page/ facebook page and learn the process of constructing the news for this page.

Election

In October, 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 information pack given to them 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. Children who are deemed not to be pulling their weight are asked to step down in favour of the next in line. Each year the council decides on its own hands-on activities which might include Tidy Classroom Competition, organising charity events, organising school non-uniform day or welcoming visitors to the school.

The Council has an important role to play in the organisation of;

- The Junior Yard Buddy System
- The School Concert/School Musical
- Open Days
- First Communion Teas
- Welcome Hour for New Infants
- Sport for All Day
- Teddy Bears Picnic
- Welcoming New Pupils
- Graduation Day for Sixth Class.

Eamon Kelly