

Role and Purpose of the Student Council

St. Joseph's N.S. 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 representatives (both male and female) from 6th, 5th / 6th and 5th classes. The Council is run along the lines of the Green Schools Group and meets before school with the Principal or Deputy Principal chairing the meeting. 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 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
- friendship buddies
- behaviour and discipline
- care for the building
- health and safety
- parents/homework
- our Anti Bullying Code
- lunchtime games and activities
- making the yard a happy place
- vandalism
- uniform
- fundraising

School News

In addition to their role in communication and problem solving, the Student Council acts 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 on our Blog more child-centered and orientated. They also provide suggestions and material for the school web page and learn the process of constructing the page.

Appointment

At the beginning of each term new members are appointed to the Student Council for the term. The class teachers have to approve the candidates and a letter of approval is

signed by their parents. The pupils must demonstrate a good attitude to school and to work.

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 term 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- organising games
- Senior Yard- organising games for 1st / 2nd classes Bringing children who have fallen into the Office
- Overseeing bin rotas and litter picking rotas
- Over seeing rota for Confirmation readings
- Welcome Hour for New Infants
- Checking computer room for faults and turning on and off computers every morning and evening
- Sport Days
- Non uniform day for charity
- School Blog
- Tidying P.E. store
- Welcoming New Pupils
- Graduation Day for Sixth Class.
- Updating school Blog

Student Council - Consent Letter - 2014

A new Student Council has been elected and your child has been chosen onto the Council for the next school term. The work involves taking on responsibilities - checking the rota for litter picking and bins, keeping the school yard tidy, organising games for the Infant pupils for some of break time. There will be regular short meetings for the students to monitor their work and to listen to their suggestions.

Our aims are to involve students in helping make the school a happy place. These pupils are given some responsibility for the organising of some events within the school. We also hope to make pupils' voices heard and to make improvements to general school life. It is important that students who take a place on the Student Council are an example of good behaviour at all times and uphold all the school rules.

As your child has been chosen to be on the school council we would ask you to sign the slip below if you are happy for your child to accept his/ her place on the Student Council for St. Joseph's N.S. The new student council becomes active from next week.

Parent's signature: _____ -

Child's signature: _____

Date: _____