**Student Council Policy St. Catherine’s National School**

**Definition of a student council:**

A Student Council is a representative structure through which students in school can become involved in the affairs of the school, working in partnership with school management, staff and parents for the benefit of the school and its students.

**Aim**

The aim of a student council in St. Catherine’s National School is to enable children to take responsibility for themselves, their peers and encourages children to make positive contributions to the school environment. The student council promotes a strong sense of belonging, ownership and a sense of pride. Other benefits include the development of a wide range of interpersonal and intrapersonal skills such as;

* Self-awareness and awareness of others.
* Collaborate work/teamwork
* Communication skills
* Constructive feedback
* Public speaking
* Self confidence

**Objectives of a Student Council**

This policy is intended to support the establishment and management of a successful Student Council in St. Catherine’s National School.

* To represent the views of the school community on issues of general concern.
* To facilitate effective communication between all members of the school community (students, management, staff and parents)
* To foster a community of friendship, respect and effective communication.
* To encourage an environment of inclusive education and personal development.
* To contribute positively to the future development of policies within the school.
* To encourage and nurture the development of interpersonal and intrapersonal skills.

**Structure of the Student Council**

At St. Catherine’s National School, our student council will consist of;

* 2 elected members from 1st to 6th class.
* A nominated member of teaching staff and/or parent (non-voting)

**Nominations and Elections**

* Any pupils from 1st to 6th class who are interested in becoming part of the student council will fill in a nomination form.
* A list of all interested students from each class will be compiled.
* The class teacher will pick 2 students from each class. One to be a boy and one to be a girl.
* Children will then be informed of the students pick from each class.
* Each member will be elected for the duration of the school year.
* Those students will then attend meetings with the teacher facilitating the council where the requirements and process (training) of students of Student Council will be discussed.

**Meetings**

* All members of the Student Council are required to attend meetings if present in school.
* Meetings will take place on regular basis. Once a month or more if necessary.
* Each member has a voice/vote.
* Each member has the right to speak at a meeting
* All members are expected to show patience and respect to other members.
* With help of teacher an agenda is created and used to guide meeting.
* The Student Council will be involved in consultation about certain school policies.

**Removal of a student from the Student Council**

While management of the school would not aim/promote the removal of students from the Student Council, under certain circumstances it may become necessary as detailed below.

* Students refused to attend meetings.
* Student refuses to follow rules of the Student Council.
* Student is in breach of the Schools Code of Conduct/Behaviour policy.
* Student leaves school.

**School Policies**

School Policies that may be affected and/or influenced by the Student Council include by are not limited to;

* Anti-bulling Policy
* Code of Behaviour
* Curriculum Plans
* Data Protection Policy
* Healthy Eating Policy
* Homework Policy
* Participation of Celebration/festivals Policy

**Resources**

It is imperative that for the effective operation and running of the Student Council that all members are prepared by participating in training. This can be provided by the associated teacher or parent. The Student Council Resource Pack available from <https://learning.educatetogether.ie/> While this is a post-primary resource book, the first three chapters may be of use with the primary system.

1. Chapter 1: Setting up a new Student Council.
2. Chapter 2: Basic Student Council training.
3. Chapter 3: Advanced Student Council training.

**Success criteria**

Positive feedback from students

Student empowerment

Positive feedback from teachers

This policy was created by school management in conjunction with school staff and Board of Management.

It was ratified on September 27th 2022

It will be reviewed every 3 years.

Signed John Leahy Date 27/09/2022

Chairperson