

St. Benedict's College

Student Council Constitution

1. **Aim of St. Benedict's College Student Council**

To give students a voice in the decisions that affect them.

To help create a more positive school community.

2. **Role of St. Benedict's College Student Council**

The School Council needs to strike a balance between:

- Doing things.
- Asking for things.
- Raising Awareness.

2.1 ***Raising Awareness***

All groups within the school community: Senior Leadership Team, Staff, Board of Governors, Parents and Pupils, need to be kept up to date with Student Council issues and activities and given an opportunity to comment on them.

This can be achieved in a number of ways:

- Suggestion boxes.
- Council members speaking in form classes and in Year assemblies.
- A Council notice board.
- Council executive members or the link teacher speaking to members of staff and the Senior Leadership Team.
- Letters to parents.
- School web site.

2.2 ***Doing Things***

The Student Council should aim to do things which will improve the school for the students and to increase the sense of community and pride in the school. For example:

- The school environment e.g. reducing litter, increasing outdoor seating.
- Monitoring toilets to improve the facilities and reduce vandalism.
- Arranging quizzes.
- Fundraising to finance student council initiatives.

2.3 ***Asking for Things***

The Student Council must be seen as a positive forum – not a place to moan and complain. However, it is part of the council's job to ask for things to improve the school for students and to give students a voice and some control over things which directly affect them. Therefore, they should discuss and ask for things to this end, for example,

- More after school clubs and activities which are not sports based.
- Outdoor seating.
- Canteen changes to encourage a healthier menu etc.

The Student Council also understands that there are aspects of school life in which they will not play a role.

- Staffing.
- Curriculum.
- Policy Development.

3. Structure of the Student Council

YEAR GROUP	NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES
Year 8	2
Year 9	2
Year 10	2
Year 11	2
Year 12	2
Head Boy/ Head Girl	2

4. Membership

4.1 *Qualities of Student Council members*

- Committed
- Hardworking
- Good communicator
- Team Player

4.2 *How long does membership last?*

Annual elections will take place and each student will serve for *one school year*.

4.3 *Role of Council Members*

- Represent the pupils in their year.
- Inform pupils in their year group of council decisions and activities.
- Inform staff, parents, Board of Governors of council activities within normal school policy.
- Attend and participate in meetings on a regular basis.
- Take on responsibility within the council when required.
- Work with other members to help realise those activities which the council undertakes.

5. Meetings

The student council will meet once each month to allow time for information to be passed up and down as follows:

- Week 1** - Council meets.
- Week 2** - Members feed back to their year groups at assemblies/ PSHE class.
- Week 3** - Form classes discuss council issues.
- Week 4** - Form class representatives bring issues to their year reps.
- Week 5** - Council meets etc.

6. Student Council Office Bearers

6.1 *Office bearers will be elected within the student council as follows:*

- Chairperson - Head Boy/ Head Girl
- Vice Chairperson
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Publicity Officer

6.2 *Roles of the office bearers*

Chairperson

- Runs meetings and leads discussions.
- Helps to prepare the agenda.
- Talks with form tutors and senior management about the council's thoughts, ideas and suggestions.
- Gives out notices in assemblies when appropriate.
- Makes sure everyone on the council is involved.

Secretary

- Helps to prepare the agenda.
- Makes notes during meetings of the important issues that are discussed and all the decisions that are made.
- Writes up the notes and keeps them in a book or file.
- Collects and relays apologies.
- Sends correspondence to Senior Leadership Team, staff etc.
- Circulates minutes to members.

Vice Chairperson

- Keeps in touch with all the form and year representatives.
- Leads meetings if the chairperson is away.
- Checks that representatives have done what they agreed to do.
- Helps and supports the chairperson in their job.

Publicity Officer

- Ensures that the notice board is kept up to date.
- Gives information to Mr. Bonnes for the newspapers/ school website and 'The Bell'.

