

## Our School Council Constitution

1. **Name:** Roskear Primary and Nursery School.

2. **Purpose:** Our School Council aims to ensure that all pupils have:

- A Voice [UN Convention on the rights of the child- Article 12] Children have the right to give your opinion, and for adults to listen and take it seriously.
- A safe, happy, fair learning environment.
- An opportunity to take an active part in the management of the school.
- A sense of ownership over policy and practice [Article 13]- Children have the right to find out things and share what they think with others, by talking, drawing, writing or in any other way unless it arms or offends other people.

3. **Members:** Our school council is made up of 28 members from Reception up to Year 6. We believe that every year deserves to have their voice heard.

We ensure that the interests of all students are properly represented by each school council member through:

- Class discussion after each school council meeting.
- All class representatives will encourage class mates to share their concerns, ideas and needs.
- All class representatives will voice all class members' needs in fortnightly school council meetings.
- All school council members will be vigilant and anticipate the needs of others.

4. **Elections:** Our School Council election process:

- Class teachers encourage a fair voting process within their own class.
- Representatives from the previous years election stand before the class and describe the role and responsibilities of a Class Representative.
- Students, once fully informed of the role and responsibilities, are encouraged to stand for election stating their reasons before the class.
- Under no circumstances will a student be excluded from the election process.
- Class members are asked to place just one clear cross into the box of their choice in election conditions [privacy and silence]
- Ballot slips are placed by class members into the ballot box provided.
- The ballot slips are then counted by the class teacher and the 2 candidates with the most votes are the school council representatives for their class.
- Elected members will be announced by the class teacher. The names of each school council representative will be included on the school newsletter and on the schools website. The badges for each school council representative will be given out in the whole school assembly.

5. **Removal/ resignation:** We believe that being a member of the school council is a privilege not a right. A School Councillor is there to represent the voice of the individual child/ children in their class/ school in accordance with 'Every Child

Matters' and the 'Children's Act. Any member can be removed from the council if they are found not to be fairly representing the needs of others.

- If a member continually disrupts or disrespects council members/ meetings they will be given a warning by the Chair [teacher]
- If behaviour continues then the Chair [teacher] will ask the school council to vote on 'removal of the offending member' or 'further warning'
- If any member of the council wants to resign we ask them to speak to the Chair or another member of the council who might be able to find a solution to whatever the issue might be. If no resolution is found then resignation will be accepted by the Chair.
- If under any of the above circumstances a member is removed his/ her class must be given the earliest opportunity and notice in order to re-elect another representative from their class.

6. **Meetings-** When/ Where: Our School Council meetings are held every month in the school Library between 2pm and 2:40pm. Meeting dates are decided at the end of every half term and are e-mailed to staff and are put onto the school council notice board.

Who attends: In order to give every child in the school a voice all members are expected to attend.

7. **Boundaries:** Our School Council has agreed that under no circumstances will any names be used that could cause embarrassment or offence to any member of the school or in the locality. Confidentiality will be observed and adhered to at all times.
8. **Finances:** At present there is no money allocated to the school council. It is our intention to raise money for improvements that will benefit all of the children within the school.