School Council Award

BRONZE AWARD

Key Criteria:
Pupil participation is an integral part of the school's ethos, aims and values. Reference is made to the role and responsibility of the School Council in relevant publications and events.

School Council Procedures
There is a School Council in place that:
1. Has a system in place which gives all pupils opportunities to participate and receive feedback
2. School Councillors are elected democratically by their peers
3. All years are represented on the Council
4. The Council meets on a regular basis, at least termly
5. There is an induction and training programme for all new Councillors
6. The Council operates in a structured way including agendas, notes and agreed action points
7. The Council officers are elected by a secret ballot of members
8. The Council is led by pupils supported by staff
9. The Council has a budget to support its work
10. All decisions of the Council are taken democratically following discussions by the elected members
11. All Councillors are equal and have the same chance to participate and be heard
12. The council contributes to development and review of school policies

School Council links within the school
1. A link teacher is appointed by the Senior Management Team (SMT) to support the Council and provide feedback to SMT, governors and Parents/Friends Association
2. All those who may be affected by the Council's decisions are consulted and their views taken into account
3. The SMT of the school recognises the need for, and arranges appropriate allocated time for Council meetings and provides a suitable venue
4. All students understand how they contribute to the School Council
5. All members of the school community understand the role of the School Council
6. There is an end of council event recognising the contribution of councillors and celebrating their successes

Council links to the wider community
1. Council members are aware of the benefits of participation in a democratic society
2. The Council will send and receive appropriate communications from agencies and community groups
3. The Council will contribute to the school website and newsletters to inform the wider school community of its work

Council Activities
1. There is a dedicated School Council notice board in a prominent place, which is regularly up-dated to include information, activities, and feedback on outcomes
2. The Council contributes to school newsletters, briefings and website
3. The Council advises SMT / Governors on issues affecting pupils
4. The Council organises consultations, questionnaires etc. to seek the views of their peers
5. The Council will take on leading organisational roles for agreed activities
6. The Council works to combat discrimination and support diversity and inclusion amongst the school community
7. The Council has a positive effect on school ethos and atmosphere and can describe its impact and successful outcomes

School Council Award

SILVER AWARD

There is a School Council in place that meets all the bronze level criteria plus:

School Council Procedures

1. The Council has a written constitution / policy, which is reviewed annually
2. Councillors have a job description and a clear understanding of their responsibilities
3. The Council meets at least twice a term (6 per Year) dates are identified and published
4. Meetings have an agenda set by input from Year/Class Councils and are managed by pupils with light-touch support from the link teacher
5. The Council has decision making powers that positively affect the lives/experiences of the pupils
6. The Council decides on and allocates its budget in line with priorities it has set
7. There is a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating its work and the Council reports on its achievements annually

School Council links within the school

1. The link teacher has a well defined role which maintains the Council's independence
2. The Council meets regularly with SMT and a link governor
3. There is a system for pupils to provide feedback to the Council on its work and offer suggestions on future development
4. Year or Class Councils are in place and inform full Council discussions and decisions
5. The work of the School Council is linked to the School Improvement Plan and the School Self Evaluation Form (SEF)
6. Council members are credited for their own contribution e.g. Records of Achievement
7. The Council is represented / links into the Healthy School Task Group and other working parties

Council Links with the Wider Community

1. Links have been made with other School Councils
2. The Council contributes to the school newsletter, website, annual report and communicates with parents and the wider community etc e.g. Assemblies
3. The Council links to the Parish and/or District Councils and Local Authority to provide their views on how the locality can be healthier, safer and more supportive of young people and how young people can contribute to their agenda
4. The Council delegates activities and supports other pupils to complete agreed tasks

Council Activities

1. Actively promotes opportunities for class/year Council to feed into Council discussions and for individuals to raise issues anonymously
2. The Council reports on its activities including financial management to governors, staff and pupils at least annually
3. The Council recognises it has a responsibility to help to make the school more environmentally friendly and this is reflected in its work
4. The Council seeks ways to help the local community become healthier, safer and more peaceful
5. The Council can identify and share it's impact on e.g. PSHE, Food in School, Physical Activity, Pupil Well-being, ECM, Curriculum, Ethos & Atmosphere, increasing pupil participation, behaviour and attendance, reduction in bullying

School Council Award

GOLD AWARD

There is a School Council in Place that meets all of the Silver criteria plus:

School Council Procedures

1. The Council meets at least half termly and has the power to call additional / extraordinary / emergency meetings
2. The Council can invite individuals/groups to attend all or part of a meeting
3. The Council widens participation to include non-members e.g. sub-committees
4. The Council has developed ways of being accountable to the student body
5. The Council has developed effective procedures for self-evaluation
6. There is proper 'handover' from one Council to another including initial mentoring of new members
7. The Council consults students on particular issues e.g. inequalities, disability, and bullying and gives voice to their opinions and concerns (acts as champions)

Council links within the school

1. The Council is consulted by SMT about school provision and practice e.g. curriculum, well-being, and with regard to change in policy /practice
2. The Council is consulted regarding the appointment of teaching and non-teaching staff and contribute to the process
3. The work of the School Council links to the SEF and is acknowledged in school inspections
4. The School Council contributes to the development and review of the School Improvement Plan
5. School Council representatives attend governors' meetings and make appropriate presentations.

Council links with the wider community

1. Secondary School Councils are linked to local youth forums / Lincolnshire Youth Cabinet
2. The Council links to the local Parish & District Councils, County Council, Regional Government, National Government and local MP's
3. The Council is proactive in making student views known to appropriate groups and organisations
4. The Council is represented on local organisations, e.g. district councils, area panels, neighbourhood forums etc.
5. The Council accepts and responds to invitations from authorities and organisations to consultations and to participate as delegates.

Council Activities

1. The Council routinely involves others in its plans and activities
2. The Council considers local data and plans to address specific issues and challenges through projects of its choice