

Student Voice and Leadership Policy SNS School

Overview

The role of the students in the life of the school is vital if we are to further develop as a thriving and high performing school which speaks for all its students.

The school staff as a whole must partner with students by listening to them and taking account of their thoughts.

Students should make sure they take a large role in each lesson and school life. They should be active in the learning process, with students understanding what, how, how well, why, where, and when they are learning and become meaningfully involved in each subject. They should all participate in work to develop the school from a student's view point.

There will be a range of opportunities for students to contribute to the well being and development of the school at all stages of their career and to support the leadership potential of the enrichment and personal development programmes. Students will be encouraged to contribute formally and informally in a number of ways and through a variety of democratic structures. All roles on student Voice and leadership will be advertised and students will be allowed to apply for positions of responsibility at various stages in the academic year.

Aims

- To offer a range of roles and responsibilities to all our student population
- To promote active citizenship and inclusion by establishing functioning democratic bodies with real influence
- To develop staff: student dialogue, especially around teaching and learning
- To deepen student engagement
- To help improve the school environment
- To contribute to whole school improvement.

Examples of how Student voice will enhance the school:

- Higher attainment
- Reduction in exclusions
- Citizenship awareness
- Improved relationships between students
- Improved relationships between students and teachers and other staff
- SoW developed using student input
- Better attendance
- Reduction in bullying
- Improved skills (communication, negotiation, decision-making, teamwork)
- More trust
- Students have pride in themselves and their school
- Greater sense of school cohesion

- Greater understanding of student experiences
- Pleasant and equitable school ethos
- Improved physical environment
- More effective and respected school policies
- Responsible behaviour
- More links with parents

PROPOSED STUDENT VOICE STRUCTURE AT STOKE NEWINGTON SCHOOL

The key areas that students will lead on and develop each year are:

1. Eco – meetings with appropriate people around the school to improve or promote recycling etc
2. Healthy and catering - regular meetings with canteen staff to discuss food issues and promote special events
3. Projects – to tackle different initiatives that come up during each term i.e. developments to the planner, creative days, ICT discussions and take-over-days.
4. Ambassadors –
 - Y12 supporting KS3/4 lessons
 - Student leaders have inset on how to evaluate lessons and for them to do their own mini-Ofsted form a student's view point
 - All subjects to discuss with student voice about what topics that have worked and what haven't also what they would like to study in the future
 - YCC meetings to discuss year group issues
5. ICT – regular meetings with RM and SLT in charge of ICT
6. Creative – regular meetings and steering group for creative days
 - Students discuss and input on creative day what could improve next time or different topics that they would like to have as creative days, meetings with SLT every half term
 - Using creative day extended registration to discuss topics

Roles within Student voice Leadership

Head teacher's Consultation Groups

Students in both Key Stage 3 and 4 will have the opportunity to join the Head teacher's consultation groups. They will meet with their relevant Key Stage Leader to identify issues and solutions to be discussed with the Head teacher. They will meet with the Head teacher every half term as part of a reciprocal process of school improvement. Feed back to students is an essential part of the work of these groups and this will be done formally via assemblies.

Student Researchers and Consultation Groups [projects]

This body of students will be responsible for fact finding and information gathering. Each department will have at least one group of students working with them. They will be used by the school/ or student body to carry out research on a wide range of topics ranging from school dinners, punctuality, travel plans and impact of school initiatives on the school community. This group will also receive research and or specific training to underpin their work; they will also be used to work on particular projects / in particular departments.

Student Voice Council

This will be a democratically elected body which will be composed of one representative from each tutor group. It will be the main forum for student voice on general issues relevant to students. It will meet every week to plan and discuss all issues during registration. On a half termly basis there will be meetings with relevant YCC's and all subjects HoD to develop projects. There is an elected chair, vice chair, secretary and deputy secretary for each year group. It will potentially have access to its own funds which it can use as it and the students see fit for the benefits of students at the School.

KS4 and Sixth form

All KS4 students are encouraged to apply for roles of responsibility within the school including those of Head Boy/Girl and prefect. There is a Head Boy/Girl and Vice Head boy/Girl who are appointed following interviews with the YCC's, Key Stage Leader and Senior Member of Staff.

Prefects

Prefects will be chosen through the a rigorous application process open to Year 10, 11 and sixth form students. They will have a range of responsibilities ranging from helping line ups during assemblies, fire drills and in the canteen etc. They will also help enforce positive behaviour around the school and be vigilant on ensuring litter and gum don't become issues and these students will ensure that the fabric of the building is not abused. They will have the power to record and report to teacher's any misbehaviour witnessed and will need to be seen as positive role models themselves in their everyday interactions at SNS. A senior member of staff will coordinate their role.

Community Cohesion

All students are encouraged to give up their own time for voluntary activities, either within the school or outside of the school. The hours spent volunteering should be logged on the correct page of their planner. All students are expected to log a minimum of 10 hours of voluntary activity during their time at the school.

Peer Mentors

Peer mentors will be sought from Year10 and 12 students. Their role will be to act as mentors/buddies to year 7 students in their first year or any vulnerable students identified by the school as needing peer mentors. This group will receive mentoring training and will meet up with their mentees on a weekly basis during registration to carry out the mentoring sessions. Peer Mentors will be school based and a resource for YCC to use to support students with their guidance.

Charity Leaders

This group will lead the school in terms of raising awareness of Local and National charity events and will adopt a chosen charity each year and organise events to raise funds, for that charity. Students on this body will ensure that all students are aware of National events like Children in Need, Red Nose day and plan events accordingly. They will be supported in this by the Leadership Team.

Sports Prefects and Junior Sports Leaders

The PE Department will coordinate Sports Prefects from Year 9 and 10 whose responsibilities will include promoting sport and physical activity to Students In KS3 by linking with tutor groups and helping at after school activities. Year 10 Students will also be selected for the Junior Sports Leader Award Programme to work alongside adults in Primary Schools through the Sports Partnership Programme. This group will also organise some weekend activities to engage students and work closely with the PE department in organizing sports fixtures and enrichment activities. To be a member of this group, students need to show an interest in and aptitude for an aspect of sport or physical education in some capacity.

Student Librarians

This group of students will be trained to support the resource centre in all its work and will receive training from librarian staff. Roles will include working at reception in the mornings, break, lunch-times and after school. They will play an active part in maintaining order in the resource centre and will also act as the publicity hub for any activities for students.

Student Receptionists and Attendance Receptionist

Year 8 students will be used by the reception staff and Attendance Officer to help deliver messages and move packages around the school. They will be required to sit on a student reception desk and will be expected to represent the student body in a positive manner at all times.

Student Ambassadors

Student ambassadors will be called upon during the year for parents' evenings, open days, and tour guides. Their primary role will be to act as good publicists for the school and to support the school in the management of whole school events. They will receive appropriate training tailored to the event that they will support. This will be the biggest student body and all students should be encouraged to become an ambassador. Students will also be taken to promote SNS to the local community events and to local primary schools.

Eco Group/Gardening Group/Recycling Group

The gardening club activities linked to school sustainability and raising awareness of environmental issues locally, nationally and globally. Also students are to promote recycling whenever they can.

Every Child A Success

Every child at SNS is successful in their own individual way. Opportunities will be provided to enable students to explore and celebrate this success whether it is inside or outside school. Students will use registration time to update their own personal record outlining what they have participated in and how this has contributed to their personal development

Many other opportunities for Student Voice Leadership exist within the school. These are updated on a regular basis. Information about what these are and how students can get involved will be publicised half termly via Assemblies and the student page of the student website/Kaleidos.