

Urlingford NS Student Council Policy

Introductory Statement:

A Student Council is a representative structure for students, through which they 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. In Urlingford Primary School our Student Council is facilitated and supported by a teacher Student Council Committee.

Role and Purpose of the Student Council:

Urlingford Primary School considers it important that the pupils should play an active, positive role in the life of their school and believes that our Student Council helps to achieve this.

Student Council Procedures and Election Process:

- Pupils from 3rd to 6th class are welcome to join the Student Council- Two pupils per classroom
- Meetings will be held regularly each term with teachers from the Student Council Teacher Committee (generally 6 meetings per school year, 2 per Term).
- Elections for the Student Council will be held in Term One. Only two children per class (3rd to 6th) will be elected to join the Student Council.
- If the children want to join the Student Council they must:
 1. Declare their interest in being a Student Council Representative for their class
 2. Prepare a manifesto to perform in front of their peers stating:
 - a. Why I would be a good candidate
 - b. Improvements I would make and why I would make them
 3. Candidates are interviewed by Student Council Teacher members
 4. A secret ballot takes place in each of classroom 3rd – 6th where children vote for their preferred representative
 5. Teachers from the Student Council Committee vote for their preferred members from each class based on the manifestos presented and interviews with the candidates.
 6. The combined vote from pupils and teachers result in the election of Student Council members.

7. Elected members hold the first meeting within 2 weeks of the vote and roles are assigned. These roles include- Chairperson, Deputy Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, Committee Members.

- Members meet twice a term or on a need-to basis during school hours.
- Council Meetings are facilitated by designated Student Council Teachers (two).
- Before these meetings, the Student Council representatives collect ideas and suggestions from all classes, for the agenda.
- These items are then discussed and any ideas suggested are brought to the Principal/In school Management Team/ Staff Meetings for further deliberation.
- As well as bringing matters to the Council for discussion, the members are required to report the outcome of meetings to the other classes.
- The committee will visit each classroom with this report as well as put a notice on the Students Council Noticeboard
- Student Council work is regularly reported on our school website

Why have a Student Council?

The Benefits for YOU

- A group of students elected to represent your views
- Have a say on school issues such as uniforms, school rules and regulations
- Make your school more democratic
- Replace peer pressure with peer support
- Help with implementation of School Bi Cinealta Plan/Policy.
- Get involved in organising social events

The Benefits for Your School

- Equality and respect for everyone involved in the school
- New ideas and a new point of view
- Improved student-teacher relations
- Support for younger students
- Build links with other schools through Student Councils

- A better school and satisfied students, through the involvement of students in planning and decision-making

Relationship to School Ethos:

Student Council members need to be team players, showing respect and cooperation with the organising teachers and other members of the Student Council. Following the Mission Statement of our School, all children (from 3rd -6th class) are WELCOME to become a member of our Student Council Committee. Younger classes (Junior Infants -Second Class) are represented by senior members of the Student council

Suggested activities of a Student Council

- Liaising with designated Student Council Teachers and Management Teachers on issues of concern to students
- Communication and co-operation with school staff
- Co-operating with management and staff on the development of school rules and regulations
- Be involved in developing the curriculum in your school
- Involvement in School Planning
- Having a say in school policies e.g. anti-bullying policy
- Making suggestions about improving school facilities
- Extra-curricular activities
- School website/Student Council Notice Board
- Links with other schools
- Getting involved with the community
- Mentoring programmes for younger students
- Student Award ceremonies
- School Celebrations: Friendship Week
- School Fundraising: Pyjama Day, Toy-show day
- Special Occasions: Visitors to the School
- Special Presentations: Creative Schools Week
- Implementing New Initiatives

- Pupils from younger classes can contribute to a Student Council 1984 Suggestion Box with items they would like discussed and these items will be brought up and dealt with at Student Council Meetings.

Topics that may come under discussion during Student Council Meetings:

- School Rules
- Behaviour and discipline
- Green Schools
- Health and Safety
- Homework
- Active Schools
- Creative School
- Friendship Week
- Lunchtime games and activities
- School uniform
- Fundraising
- Extra-curricular activities

Breaches of this policy:

If a child is in breach of any of the following conditions:

- Not following the School Code of Behaviour
- Consistent absence from attending meetings
- Not adhering to school/classroom rules
- Being rude, and disrespectful to teachers, pupils or other members of the Student

Council.

He or she will be spoken to by a teacher member of the Student Council and if no improvement has been noted the child can be asked to leave the council.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- All staff share in the coordination and implementation of this policy.
- All aspects of this policy will be discussed with the members of the Student Council.
- A copy of this policy will be sent home to parents in published on the school website for parents to access.

Evaluation and review:

This policy will be monitored on an ongoing basis and will be reviewed during the school year

2026 or earlier if the need arises.

Ratification and Communication:

A copy of the policy will be e-mailed to all members of staff and will be placed on the school's one drive and website.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on the 9th of April 2025.

Signed: _____ Date:

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date of next review: September 2026