

Schull Community College STUDENT COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

Role of the Student Council

- To create in cooperation with the Principal, staff and students, a better school life for the student of our school.
- To provide students with opportunities of leadership and to develop in all students a sense of responsibility.
- To encourage the students in the school to become more aware of how the school is run and to constructively identify and express their needs.
- To contribute to overall school development by being involved in school policy development and to be a resource in working in partnership with the management of the school.
- To act as liaison where appropriate between the students and the teaching staff and management.

Structure of the Student Council

The council will consist of one democratically elected representative of each first, second, third, Transition year classes, fifth and sixth year classes.

Elections

- Elections will be democratic and by secret ballot.
- Only the students will vote in Student Council elections.
- Each student will have only one vote.
- At Junior, Transition year and Senior Cycle level , a separate election will be held for each class and students may only vote for candidates in their own class.
- Student will be invited to put their names forward for election.
- If there is more than one candidate going forward an election will be held. If there is only one candidate they are deemed elected once they have been proposed and seconded.
- Ballot papers will be produced.
- The votes will be counted by a nominated teacher/s and kept for verification.

Term of Office

Each member will serve for one academic year, from the date of election until the following June.

Officers / Activities

After the council has been formed, the entire council must elect the following officers:

Chairperson

Deputy Chairperson

Secretary

- These positions will be filled by a democratic secret ballot..
- The chairperson will run the meeting, adhere to the agenda and direct all comments through the chair. The Chairperson will endeavour to ensure that all council members have the chance to express their views.
- The Vice Chairperson will act in the absence of the Chairperson or Secretary.
- The Secretary will record the minutes in a designated minute book.
- Will publicise Student Council activities, issue press releases, maintain the Student Council notice-board and make relevant intercom announcements.
- All members will report back to their classes on matters discussed at meeting sand bring issues raised by their classmates at meetings.

Meetings

The Student Council will meet twice monthly where possible. A student Council Liaison Officer will assist in the smooth running of the meeting but in so far as is possible, students should run their affairs entirely on their own initiative. For any major decision to be voted on or agreed, at least two thirds of the council must be present at the meeting.

Attendance / Discipline

When a council member had advance knowledge that they cannot attend a meeting, they will inform their deputy. Normally this will be the person who finished second to them in the class election. The council may co-opt a replacement where necessary.

If a member misses three consecutive meetings or five in total during the year without a valid excuse, they may be asked to step down.

A code of conduct will be drawn up to ensure the council carry out their duties and that the council not brought into disrepute by members who seriously misbehave.

Changes to the Constitution

Any changes to this constitution must be voted upon by the Student Council. The constitution and Members Contract will be reviewed yearly or as appropriate. At least two thirds of the council must be present at any vote.

This Student council constitution was reviewed by the Board of Management.

This Policy was agreed on __07/06/2016__.

Signed __Noel Coakley_____ Signed ____Brendan Drinan_____
Chairperson of BOM Principal

Date __07/06/2016_____

Date of next review __07/06/2021_____