



FARNEY CLOSE SCHOOL

School Council Policy and Procedure

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Signed	
Role	Principal
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School Council

What is the role of the School Council

Farney Close is committed to listening to and responding to the voice of all of the children and young people.

The Council gives the children and young people at Farney the opportunity to get together and talk about their school. This would include things that they may like about the school and other things they may like to change.

Our School Council aims to encourage our young people to:

- Develop confidence and responsibility and make the most of their abilities
- Prepare them to play an active role as citizens
- Develop healthy, safer lifestyles
- Develop good relationships and respect the differences between people
- To have a "voice" and to share their opinions and ideas with others

Our School Council aims to ensure our young people have:

- A safe, happy and fair learning environment
- A Council to voice their concerns and act upon them
- A structured opportunity to learn problem-solving skills
- An opportunity to take an active role in the organisation of the school
- An opportunity to experience a democratic process

Our School Council should encourage our young people to develop:

- A sense of ownership over policy and practice
- A consensus over school issues such as behaviour
- A responsibility towards the school community and environment

Our School Council should give our young people the experience of:

- Planning, organising and monitoring small projects
- Speaking and listening skills
- Debating skills
- Mediation and negotiating skills
- A clearer understanding of basic budgeting

Who sits on the School Council?

One young person from each tutor group (with a mix of day and residential pupils) Principal, Head of Care, Head of Education, School Social Worker, Catering Manager and the School Counsellor. There are two meetings for the secondary school, one for key stage 3 and another for key stage 4.

Farney Close School's Primary pupils will meet separately forming their own Primary School Council. There is no set representatives on Primary, two pupils from year 5 and two pupils from year 6 are selected prior to each meeting.

Who selects who sits on the School Council?

A representative from each tutor group will be selected by the Principal, Head or Care and School Social Worker. The young person who is selected should be someone who is kind, approachable and able to listen to others as well as put their views across.

Once selected for the School Council do the young people have to attend?

If a young person is unwell or not in school their place will be held open for them until the next meeting. If they refuse to attend more than one meeting then another representative will be selected in their place. In this way we hope to ensure that a true reflection of the views of the whole school is gained.

When and where does the School Council meet?

The Council meets twice a half term on a Thursday for Key Stage 3 and a Friday for Key stage 4. The key stage 2 School Council meets once a half term on a Friday. Dates are set in advance. If it is felt that the Council need to hold an extra meeting one would be called by the School Social Worker.

Who decides on the agenda for these meetings?

There is a set agenda for the meetings which includes:

- Food and Drink
- Keeping Safe and Bullying
- Social Time and Activities (this includes breaks)
- School Day
- Fundraising
- Any Other Business
- Positives

The agenda is sent out to tutor groups a week before the meeting. The School Council representative should go through the agenda with their tutor group so that they can capture everyone's voice. The School Council representative should take notes and bring this to the School Council meeting.

Who Chairs these meetings?

The School Social Worker chairs these meetings.

Who compiles the minutes of these meetings?

The School Social Worker will take the minutes which are then distributed to staff and members of the school council so they can feed back to their tutor groups. Any actions from the previous minutes are discussed at the Update meeting (the second meeting of the half term).

Who feedbacks to other young people?

After each meeting every member of the School Council feeds back what has been discussed at the School Council meeting to their tutor group. This process ensures that all young people at Farney Close are made aware of what is being discussed and are also given an opportunity to talk in a group about what they would like their representative to take to a Council meeting on their behalf.

Council members will have involvement in being responsible for following up actions from the meeting and feeding back to the other council members at the next meeting.

Who follows up the actions from the meeting?

The young people and staff take responsibility to follow up actions from the meeting and feed back to the next Council meeting the outcome from those actions. Actions will be allocated in the meeting so it is clear who needs to do what.

Can the young people continue to use others ways of expressing their views?

The Council is in place as an extra opportunity for young people to voice their views. Young people can continue to use the facilities already available to them i.e. Speaking directly to any adults who may work with them, at any point of the day, independent visitors, counsellors and therapists, plus in a group setting via their House Meetings. Their views will also continue to be actively sort through Link Worker time, Tutor time, House Meetings, Care Plans and at their annual reviews.

Who has a copy of this Policy?

All Members of the Council have a copy of the Policy. A further copy will be found on each house group and in all PPP's.