

Student Council in Holy Family Senior School

Rationale

Section 27 of the Education Act, 1998 provides that schools may establish a student council and that the board of management shall encourage the establishment by students of a student council and shall facilitate and give all reasonable assistance to students who wish to establish a student council and to student councils when they have been established.

[D.E.S.]

Aim of the Student council

The aim of the Student Council is to:

- Provide an opportunity for pupils to voice their opinions and offer suggestions in relation to many aspects of school life
- Discuss issues relevant to the school and encourage and promote initiatives from the pupils
- Offer an opportunity for all pupils to voice their opinions on proposed changes and thereby play a very important role in improving our school
- Act as a channel for communication within the school, between pupils and between home and school
- Provide an opportunity to raise funds for charities or our school equipment fund.

Role of the Student Council

At **Holy Family Senior School**, we believe that the pupils should play an active, positive role in the life of the school and we believe that our Student Council will help to achieve this.

Our School's Student Council is comprised of two representatives (one male, one female) from each class from 5th and 6th.

Through our Student Council we hope to give the pupils a positive role in the organisation of the school and thus ensure they feel they are listened to and respected for their ideas and concerns and these are both valued and valuable. It will involve the pupils in many of the decisions, which are made regarding the day-to-day running and management of the school. Discussions in classes and at the Council meetings will

help to develop social and learning skills in many areas such as speaking and listening, problem solving and decision-making and the decision-making process. From time to time the Student Council will discuss, make suggestions and decisions on topics such as:

- School rules.
- Anti-Bullying Code.
- Lunchtime games and activities. Playground football.
- Behaviour.
- Graduation Ceremony.
- Care for the building
Friendship stops/ playground pals/peer mediation.
- Uniform.
- Health and safety.
- Buddy Programmes.
- Healthy eating policy/ Cafeteria / menus /
- Fundraising.
- Sports Day
- New parents' meeting.
- Transition of 2nd class pupils to senior school.

Election

In September, / October each class from 5th and 6th Class upwards elect new members to represent them on the Student Council. Each class elects two members, one male and one female. Each pupil seeking election puts his or her name forward and candidates must have the approval of their class teacher. 6 students from the council will also represent each of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th classes and voice their opinions and ideas to the meetings

The pupils elected are required to be actively involved in the Council, to attend meetings with the principal and participate in activities and be a role model for other pupils. As well as bringing matters to the council for discussion, the representatives are required to report the outcome of meetings to their own class and to the other younger classes. Each year the council will decide on its own hands-on activities which might include Tidy Classroom Competition, organising charity events, organising school non-uniform day, welcoming 2nd classes and assisting them at break and lunch times and speaking at the new parents' meeting in May. The student council members help out the principal during assemblies by distributing badges, certificates etc

The meetings will be decided on and the principal will set these up and help chair them,