

School Council
Intent, Implementation and Impact 2021-22



Intent

At Southwick Community Primary School, our School Council aims to provide a safe, happy and fair learning environment. Our aim is to facilitate Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which advocates the right of all children to say what they think should happen and to have their opinions taken into account when adults are making decisions that affect them. We take an active role in organising school events and provide opportunities for pupil voice. Pupils are given the opportunity to express their views and make positive contributions towards the school, enabling them to understand that their opinions count. We work closely and collaboratively in the community and local area.



Implementation

As a school, we value our School Councillors as their voice and ideas are integral to making our school the inspiring and joyful enthusiastic place it is. The election of our School Councillors is held annually at the start of each academic year. Every child from Year 1 to Year 6 is given the opportunity to create a manifesto in which they present to staff and pupils. From this, children then vote democratically for who they feel will suit the role of a School Councillor. Each year group votes for their own year group councillors (a boy and girl from each year group) who will then represent them at the weekly meetings. School Council meetings are held weekly or fortnightly (depending on the length of the half term) where notes are taken. During these meetings projects, ideas, fundraising opportunities and opinions are shared and discussed. This year, we are going to use a use pupil voice box as a way of communicating everyone's ideas and opinions. During our meetings, this box will be emptied and every suggestion from the pupil voice box will be listened to and discussed. These suggestions will then form our projects or next steps.



Impact

We believe that our school council provides a meaningful way in which pupils can voice their opinions and have their views considered in decisions which impact upon them. It enhances children's confidence, self-esteem and promotes the development of life skills like problem solving, negotiation and decision-making. Through the school council, our children will have the knowledge and skills to be able to make appropriate decisions and express their opinions respectfully. It allows our children to have increased responsibility, involvement and commitment within our school and the community, allowing them to become empowered young people. At Southwick Community Primary School, we believe having a school council enables improved communication and relationships between staff and children. This in turn promotes improvements in pupil behaviour and school ethos.