



# SCHOOL COUNCIL POLICY

2025-2026

Headteacher Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris H'.

Chair of Governors Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Green'.

Date: September 2024

Date of next review: September 2026



# Southwick Community Primary School & NEW BEGINNINGS NURSERY

## SCHOOL COUNCIL POLICY - SEPTEMBER 2024

### Introduction

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for the School Council at Southwick Community Primary School.

This policy was formulated by the School Council Coordinators and the School Council Representatives.

The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all members of staff at Southwick Community Primary School.

### Definition

A school council is a classroom elected body of pupils whose purpose is to represent their classes and be a forum for active and constructive pupil input into the daily life of the school.

### The Importance of School Councils

Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) states that children and young people should have a say in decisions that affect their lives.

A School Council can provide a meaningful way in which pupils can voice their opinions and have their views taken into account in decisions which impact upon them.

### Aims and Purpose

- To provide opportunity for pupils to become partners in their own education and to make a positive contribution to the school environment and ethos.
- To develop and promote children's self-confidence, social skills and their responsible behaviour towards each other and towards their teachers and adult members of staff.
- To develop the pupil's knowledge, skills and understanding of how to contribute to society as a whole and what it means to be an active citizen.
- To develop pupil's recognition of themselves as worthwhile individuals with a right to be heard.
- To allow children to have a 'voice' and to share their opinions and ideas with others.



- To allow children to become more responsible and actively involved in the decision-making process of the school.
- To develop important life skills that promotes positive mental health and social welfare, emotional literacy critical and moral reasoning, self-esteem, self-awareness, communication skills, relationship skills and assertiveness.
- To work closely and collaboratively in the community and local area.

### Structure

- A child from each class will be chosen to be part of the School Council.
- During the first two weeks of the Autumn Term, teachers will discuss with their classes the role of the School Council.
- All children should be supported to decide whether they would like to stand for class representative and be made aware of what this role entails.
- Pupils will be asked to prepare and deliver a short speech (manifesto) to the rest of their class stating why they should be chosen.
- Each pupil will be given the opportunity to vote. Votes will be counted by the teacher and pupils with the highest number of votes are elected as class council representatives.
- Class teachers will inform the School Council Coordinators immediately after the elections of their class council representatives.
- This process will take place every new school year to allow continuity within the school council.
- Pupils elected will serve for one year.

### Equality of gender

Each year group must be well represented in terms of gender. A boy and a girl will represent their year group for a whole year.

### SEND/Inclusion

Every child matters. It is believed that every child must be given an opportunity to lead in one way or the other, irrespective of their language, ethnic background, education or religious inclinations.



## Organisation and management of our School Council

Photographs of the School Council representatives and a short biography about themselves will be displayed on the School Council display board in the main hall.

School Council Badges will be given out in assembly and must always be worn by the School Council Representatives in school. The representatives will also stand up in assembly in front of the whole school to tell the rest of the school about themselves and what positive contributions to the school environment and ethos they would like to make.

School council meetings are held weekly or fortnightly (depending on the length of the half term). The meetings are held by the School Council Coordinators together with the School Council representatives.

The meetings will be led by the School Council representatives and at each meeting there will be one main issue on the agenda, as well as opportunities for all School Council Representatives to discuss other ideas they have and any ideas raised by the pupils in their class. Ideas may include ways the children can work together with the community or organising fundraising opportunities.

School Council Representatives will take turns on running the meetings and making notes on what has been discussed.

School Council Representatives will feedback to the rest of the school what they have discussed or are planning/implementing. This may be done in class or in assembly.

School Council Representatives will also work together to produce a newsletter half termly which will be published on the school website for the children and parents to read at home. This will include events (trips, visitors, clubs) and any exciting/ important information about what each class/ year group have been up to during the half term at school and include any upcoming dates/ events.

School Council Representatives will also give out a weekly 'School Council star of the week' certificate in our whole school celebration assembly at the end of the week, year groups will alternate every week. The School Council will discuss in their meetings which children they think deserve to receive the certificates and then two representatives will write out the certificates and hand out them out (they will take turns in doing so).

School Council Representatives and Coordinators will also run any new ideas or plans by the Headteacher.