



Student Council Policy

Our Lady's Girls' NS

Ballinteer Avenue

Dublin 16

19396J

Role and Purpose of the Student Council:

Our Lady's Girls' National School considers it important that the pupils should play an active, positive role in the life of their school and believes that our Student Council helps to achieve this.

The role 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 our school and encourage and promote initiatives from the pupils
- offer an opportunity for all pupils to voice their opinions on a selection of proposed changes and thereby play a very significant role in improving our school
- act as a channel of communication within the school organisation between pupils and between home and school
- encourage pupils to organise events central to the life of the school
- provide an opportunity to raise funds for charities or for school funds

The Election Process:

Every January, a representative from Junior Infants to Sixth Class is elected by secret ballot and take a seat on the Council for the duration of a year. Nominees are invited to make public presentations in classes to explain why they should get a vote, prior to election. The elected pupils are required to be active participants in the Council, to attend meetings regularly, participate in activities and be a role model for other students. All Student Council members wear specially designed badges for easy identification.

Procedures:

Members meet once a month and the Council Meetings are facilitated by two teachers. Prior to these meetings, the Student Council representatives collect ideas and suggestions from all classes, for the agenda. These items are then discussed, brought to Staff Meetings and sometimes to the Parents' Association Meetings, for further deliberation. As well as bringing matters to the Council for discussion, the members are required to report the outcome of meetings to the their classes.

The Council has an important role to play in the organisation of: particular special occasions, special presentations of Flags/Awards/Certificates etc. and having an input into relevant school policies.

Through our Student Council we hope to give our pupils a more active role in the organisation of our school and ensure they are listened to and respected for their ideas and concerns. It involves the students in many of the decisions that are made regarding students in Our Lady's GNS. Discussions in classes and at Council meetings help to develop social and learning skills in many areas including speaking and listening, problem solving, brainstorming and the decision-making process.

Discussion Topics and Activities:

Topics that come under discussion at Student Council meetings may include the following: school rules , behaviour and discipline, green issues, health and safety, health promotion, active school, homework, friendship/anti bullying, lunchtime games and activities, school uniform, fundraising and making yard a happier place.

In addition to their role in communicating and problem solving, the Student Council acts as an agent for school news, as journalists and reporters through notices for the School Newsletter, putting up posts and notices on our display board. It is hoped that this makes school news more child orientated and more engaging for the student body.

Conclusion:

Our Lady's Girls' National School, are very proud of the role played by our students in developing our school and believe that we achieve a more pleasant and vibrant learning environment, as a result.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on the

28/5/24

Chairperson:

Elizabeth Murray

Principal:

Robbie My

This student council document will be reviewed accordingly. The record below will indicate a scheduled review as well as ad hoc revisions with notes documenting historical edits with version commentary.

| Version | Review/Revision Date | Authors | Approved by | Notes |
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| 1.1 | June 2025 | Staff of Our Lady's Girls' NS | Board of Management | Initial draft of the Student Council Policy, Our Lady's |