



Ballymore National School

Ballymore, Dunfanaghy,
Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.

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Charity Number: 20202358

**Under the Patronage of the Church of Ireland Bishop of
Derry and Raphoe.**

Student Council Policy

Introduction

Ballymore NS 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.

Rationale

The Student Council of Ballymore NS has been set up to ensure that the student

population in the school are represented at all levels of the decision-making process and

that their voice acts as a guiding and inspirational force for the betterment of the school.

Aims

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 proposed changes and

thereby play a very significant role in improving our school

- act as a channel of communication within the school organization 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.

Relationship to school Ethos

Ballymore NS recognises the importance of giving children the opportunity to be involved

in making decisions that directly impact them. We also believe in the importance of

children having a voice and being given a platform to use that voice in order for the

development of a school that is inclusive, progressive and is a positive learning environment.

Membership of the Student Council

- A total of six pupils will sit on the Student Council
- These pupils will be selected from applicants from Junior Infants to 6th class
- The council will be formed of pupils from all class levels, the ratio will be decided on the number of pupils in each room.
- In the interest of gender equity and to ensure that the relevant interests of boys and girls are represented equally, in so far as possible, our council will be made up of two girls and two boys and two others, depending on election results.

Selection Process

Pupils from each classroom will be given the opportunity to nominate themselves, to go forward for class election with the intention of sitting on the Student Council. Pupils will be asked to sign and date Appendix A.

- Following the self-nomination process, the pupils will be asked to produce an election poster, which will be displayed on the Student Council noticeboard.
- Following the nomination deadline, the election for The Student Council will take place one week later.
- The pupils from the junior room will be asked to vote for their chosen candidates by secret ballot (one boy and one girl).
- The pupils from the senior room will be asked to vote for their chosen candidates by secret ballot (one boy and one girl).
- The votes will be tallied, and the winning candidates will be announced. (junior room: one boy and one girl; senior room: one boy and one girl).
- The pupils will be asked to vote again from the previous non-successful candidates by secret ballot (two pupils).
- The votes will be tallied, and the winning candidates will be announced. (two pupils).
- Pupils may not sit on the Student Council for two years running and they may only sit on the Student Council three times throughout their school life in Ballymore N.S. (numbers dependant). In the interest of fairness, we endeavour to enable all the pupils to have an opportunity to sit on the student council.

Election of Officers

Officers of the council will be elected democratically and through a process of mutual

agreement and discussion amongst members of the Council.

Officer roles include:

- Chairperson
- Deputy Chairperson
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Public Relations/Communication Officers

Duties associated with the above roles will be communicated with the children at the

beginning of their term in office.

Meetings

Meetings will be held monthly in the junior classroom. A staff member will attend and facilitate the meetings. The Council will aim to be in contact with the principal every month, following the Student Council meeting.

Depending on the time of the year and upcoming events, meetings of the Council may need to be rescheduled.

Role of the Council

- Promote the School's ethos
- Provide an opportunity for pupils to voice their opinions and offer suggestions in

relation to many aspects of school life.

- Actively engage with the development of our School Improvement Plan each year.

- Enhance and improve our Positive behaviour in school.

- Engage with and work alongside other current and future committees in the school

e.g. Green School and Active School.

- Be in regular contact with the principal.
- Provide a vision for the school which ensures that the wishes of children are always

central to future plans.

- Coordinate and assist with fundraising events in the school.
- Organise and participate in pupil mentoring and 'buddy' programmes such as reading with infants.
- Provide advice and insight into purchasing of school equipment and resources.
- Help to organise extracurricular activities.

Communication

Our student council will communicate with the whole school community through:

- School Newsletters
- Facebook (via the teacher)

- Notice board
- Announcements in class

The Council will be required to communicate their vision and aims with the whole school

community - pupils, teachers, SNAs, other staff, parents and BOM.

The Council will provide opportunities for pupils and other members of the school

community to communicate with them on matters that they would like addressed. This

will be done through the use of a Council Post Box.

Student Council is required to inform the whole school community of projects undertaken,

progress being made and action plans drafted on a monthly basis.

Term of Office

The selected council will sit for a period of one school year and will be dissolved at the end

of each school year in June.

Members may sit on the council for more than one term but must reapply and be selected

for the role in September.

Success Criteria

The success of the council will be judged by its ability to improve and enhance the learning

opportunities, social opportunities and programmes provided by the school to pupils.

The Council will review their work at the last meeting of the year and provide a brief report

to the BOM which will acknowledge successes and provide recommendations for the

forthcoming year.

Ratification of Policy, Review and Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed by the Board of Management periodically every 4 years.

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on 13/09/23.

Signed: W. George Irwin

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Pat N. Churnin

Principal

Date: 13/09/2023

Date: 13/09/2023

Next Review Date: 13/09/2024.

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: _____

Principal

Date: _____

Date: _____