

# ASSUMPTION GRAMMAR SCHOOL



## SCHOOL COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

*Revised September 2012*

A School Council is a formal group of pupils elected by their peers to represent their views. It is an important forum for providing meaningful leadership opportunities for pupils. Research indicates that pupils are happier and participate in their education more effectively when their ideas are listened to and their opinions valued.

Article 12 of The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child gives young people:

*"The right to express an opinion and to have that opinion taken into account in any matter that affects them".*

Article 29 further identifies as an aim of education:

*"preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society"*

The Government's 10 Year Strategy for Children and Young People in NI , 2006-2016 includes an underpinning value that children and young people should be active participants in society. It supports this by aiming to develop a culture where the views of young people are regularly sought in matters which affect their lives.

In keeping with this spirit of participatory education a representative School Council is established for the following purpose:-

### **FUNCTION**

- To provide a forum for pupils' voices to be heard in matters pertaining to school life.
- To assist and liaise with staff in all matters relating to pupils' well-being.
- To assist in administration.
- To assist in the review of the 'Information for Students and Parents' Booklet.

### **EXPECTATIONS**

The Student Council should be:

- Educational - enabling pupils to learn new skills in communication and decision making;
- Democratic - open to all pupils;
- Real - making real decisions;
- Open and transparent - working with the SLT and fellow pupils and reporting details back to pupils;
- Valuable - ensuring that pupils understand the benefits of the council to the whole school community.

## **COMPOSTION**

### **General Council - 10/11 members**

- a) Head Girl or Deputy Head Girl **(1)**
  
- b) Head Girl of Junior, Middle and Senior School **(3)**
  
- c) A representative from Years 9-14 **(6)**  
The Head Girl of a Section may co-opt the House Captain of a particular year as  
and when appropriate.
  
- d) **Two representatives from St. Colman's High School (Year 13 and Year 14)**

**A council member who fails to adhere to school rules will have her position reviewed and may lose it.**

## **METHODS OF ELECTION OR NOMINATION**

The Head Girl/Deputy Head Girl and Head Girl of each of the Sections of the school will automatically occupy a position on the School Council.

The representatives from Years 9-14 will be appointed as follows:-

- a) Volunteers from each class will put themselves forward for nomination.
  
- b) Each form class will elect one nominee (there will be five for each year group).
  
- c) The nominees may canvas support and address their year group at Year Assemblies. They must show their presentation to the Form Teacher before addressing their Year Group.
  
- d) Voting for the year representative will take place during Year Assembly.
  
- e) A pupil may only sit on the School Council for two consecutive years.

## **MEETINGS**

As far as possible, meetings will be held **monthly**.

They will be chaired by the Head Girl or Deputy Head Girl and minutes taken on a rota basis. Minutes are to be made accessible on the C2K system. Officials will be elected at the first Council meeting.

Where possible, two members of the SLT will attend each meeting.

## **AGENDA**

The agenda for meetings will be collected as follows:-

- Suggestion Box located adjacent to School Council Noticeboard.
- On the week prior to the meeting the Year Representative will inform her year at Year Assembly of the impending meeting and will advise girls as to the location of agenda slips and box.
- Staff and SLT suggestions.

## **METHOD OF REPORTING**

- The School Council Noticeboard.
- Staffroom Noticeboard
- Year Representatives will report each month to their year group on issues addressed by the Council.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Chairperson of the Board of Governors)*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Principal)*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_