

Icknield School Council Vision Statement

Our vision is, for all pupils at Icknield School to be able to have a voice and contribute towards the continuous improvement of our school community.

Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) says that children and young people should have a say in decisions that affect their lives. Our school council enables pupils to have their voices heard by senior leaders giving them an opportunity to feel empowered and valued. Pupils gain first-hand experience of elections and democracy which is one of the fundamental British values.

The school council aims are for the representatives to have a voice within our school by:

- Communicating in their classes and finding out information to share
- Sharing good news about their class or individuals
- Sharing problems and trying to come up with solutions
- Sharing ideas about how to make our school and community better and closer together
- Voting, on behalf of their class, for the Superstar from the class Stars of the Week

Definition and Ethos of Our School Council

The School Council is a body of pupils chosen by their class teacher or their peers, in September, via a process most appropriate for the class.

These representatives represent the views of all the pupils. All pupils will have an opportunity to contribute and share their ideas using their preferred methods of communication. These will include the use of objects of reference, signing and symbols. They will use a range of communicative aids to support their understanding and allow them to express their opinions and views

Every member of the school council is given the opportunity to share the thoughts of their classes and consider ways to improve their school. They will consider how they can raise money or get support to put their plans into action.

The school council gives pupils direct experience of debating and negotiating issues and enables them to experience part of the 'bigger picture' of how the whole school is run.

The pupils who represent their class at the school council have an opportunity to

- Develop their communication skills
- Develop leadership skills
- Develop problem solving and negotiation skills
- Work as part of a team to make changes and improvements
- Grow in self-confidence and increase their self esteem

School Council Guidelines

The aim of the school council is to involve students in decision making and playing an active role in making their school and community better places for all. The school council will give pupils the opportunity to let adults know their feelings and opinions about things that affect them.

The Role of the Council

The school council will undertake the following:

- Agree to the school council constitution at the first meeting of the year
- Work with the SLT and Governors to share their opinions on matters which affect the school community.
- Consider ways to involve parents and local groups in the school.
- Serve as the voice for the pupils of Icknield School within the school and within the community.

The Role of the School Councillors

School Councillors will:

- Listen to the views of their class and represent these ideas and views during school council meetings.
- Feedback key issues from these meetings to their class.

Meetings

School councillors aim to meet at least twice a half term to work on current projects and discuss key issues.

School Council Meeting Organisation

It is the aim of the school that the meetings should be run under the guidance and support of a teacher/Assistant Headteacher representative, with the appropriate resources, enabling all pupils to participate. During the first meeting of the council, a few representatives will take on a designated role, these will include: Chairperson – leads the meeting with the support of the teacher/Assistant Headteacher and helps set the agenda, consulting other representatives on issues that have been raised by their class, by teachers and the senior leadership team. Vice Chairperson –will run the meeting in the absence of the Chairperson. Secretary (LSA) – takes the minutes of each meeting which should then be translated into ‘words and symbols’ and distributed to all of the teachers and council representatives. Treasurer – Works along with the teacher/Assistant Headteacher in managing any school council budget. Publicity Officers –produce a termly contribution for the school website and newsletter showing parents/carers the issues discussed and any achievements.