



**St. Brigid's B.N.S.**  
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## **Student Council**

### **Role of the Student Council**

St. Brigid's BNS 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 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 September, two representatives from Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Classes are elected by secret ballot and take a seat on the Council for the duration of the next academic 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. Each Student Council member will be presented with a name badge which they will wear for the school year.

### **Procedures**

Members meet once a month in the hall/library. Council Meetings are facilitated by Mrs. McCabe and other members of the In-School Management (ISM) Team. Prior to these meetings, the Student Council representatives collect ideas and suggestions from all classes, for the agenda. These items are then discussed and may be brought to Staff 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 other classes. The committee will visit each classroom with this report as well as post regular updates to the website and school newsletter.

The Council has an important role to play in the organisation of: Friendship week, Seachtain na Gaeilge, Wellbeing week, Maths week, special occasions and presentations etc. They also have 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 St, Brigid's BNS. 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, vandalism, school uniform, fundraising, making yard a happier place, students' yearbook etc.

In an effort to give back to the community and the wider world the student's council may help in the organisation of a fund raiser for a chosen charity each year.

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 and website page.

### **Conclusion**

St. Brigid's BNS is 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 in November 2021.

**Signed: Seán Moran**  
**Chairperson**

**Date: 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021**