

Donabate-Portrane



Educate Together

Student Council

Mission:

Our Student Council is a representative structure for the students of our school, through which they can become involved in the affairs of the school, working in partnership with school management, staff and parents for the benefit of the school and its students. In keeping with 'The National Children's Strategy', children and young people should be given a voice in matters that affect their lives and provided with opportunities to participate in decision making.

Aims:

- To give the student body a voice
- To support students
- To plan special events or programmes
- To develop leadership skills in the students
- To help influence decisions made in the school
- To report to the P.T.A and B.O.M. on issues that are important to the students of the school
- To make contact with local representatives, the Department of Education and other outside agencies on matters of importance to the students of the school

Structure:

- The Student Council is equally representative of all students in the school.
- Only students can be elected to the student council.
- One teacher and one parent will work with the Student Council and form the link between the Student Council, the B.O.M., the P.T.A. and the staff.
- Elections will be held once a year in September.

- Every student from 3rd to 6th class has 1 vote.
- Elections will be held by secret ballot.
- Counting of ballots is carried out by students under the supervision of a teacher/S.N.A./parent.
- Candidates can canvass in advance. Canvassing for elections can take place outside of teaching hours (break and lunch) and during class time with the agreement of the class teacher.
- In the case of a draw a second secret ballot will be held between the tied contestants.
- All classes from third to sixth will elect 2 representatives, one girl and one boy.
- An additional representative may be elected to represent international children in consultation with the teacher representative, the principal and the teacher with responsibility for international children.
- After completing one term of office (one year) candidates cannot stand for election again.
- Meetings will be held at regular intervals throughout the year.
- In the event of a resignation from the Council, the class affected are entitled to appoint a new representative. The position should be offered to the person who came second in the election. If this person refuses it should be offered to the person who came third and so on. In the event of a tie a re-election can take place between the two candidates. The person who takes over during the year is entitled to run for election again the following year should they so wish. All resignations should be in writing.
- Any meeting of the Student Council must have a quorum of at least 5, one of whom must be an adult before it is valid.
- Student Council officers shall be as follows: Chairperson, Minutes Secretary, Correspondence Secretary and Treasurer.
- Minutes of each Student Council meeting duly adopted and signed shall be kept on record. Student Council members must bring all paperwork (copies of minutes etc) to each meeting.
- Student Council members will be given at least one junior class to represent and must undertake to visit that class at least once before each meeting.