



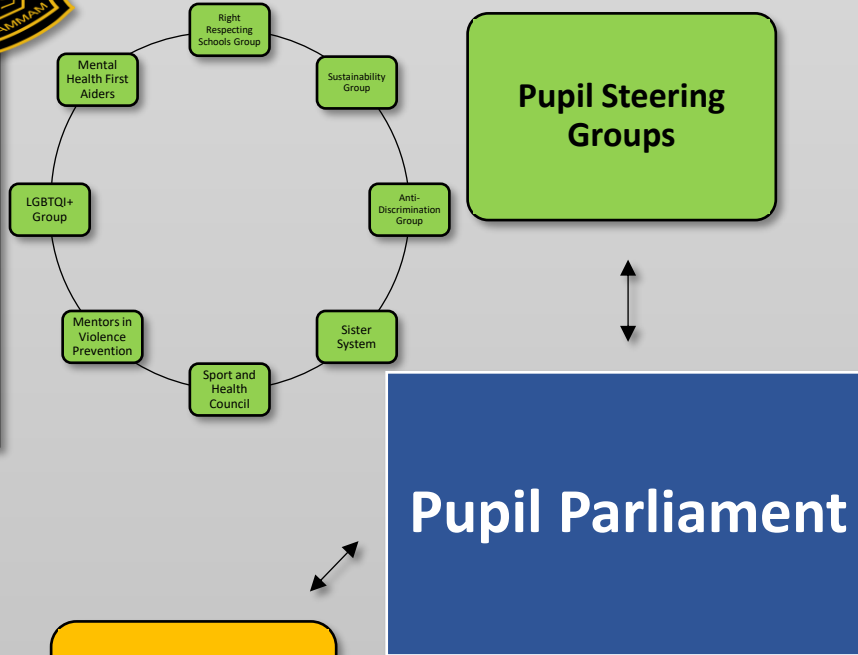
# Pupil Empowerment

There are a range of ways for pupils to contribute to our improvement journey. The three main ways are through:

- Pupil Steering Groups
- Pupil Leadership Teams
- Pupil Voice Focus Groups/Surveys

These then inform our Pupil Parliament, where representatives meet with the Headteacher on a regular basis to discuss what we should do to make our school a better place for everyone.

This links to Article 12 of our school's Rights Respecting Schools Charter: *The right to respect for the views of the child.*



## Pupil Empowerment Links to Our School Values



Everyone - regardless of background or circumstances - should have a voice in making our school a more inclusive and welcoming place.



All of us should want the very best for our school and our pupils, and should participate confidently in making this happen.



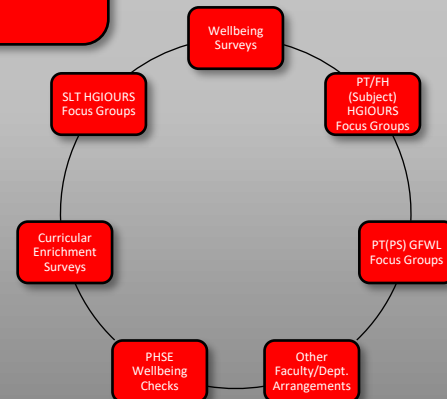
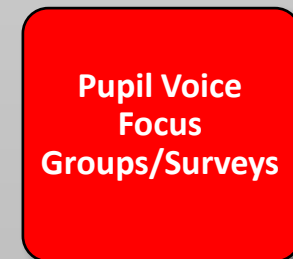
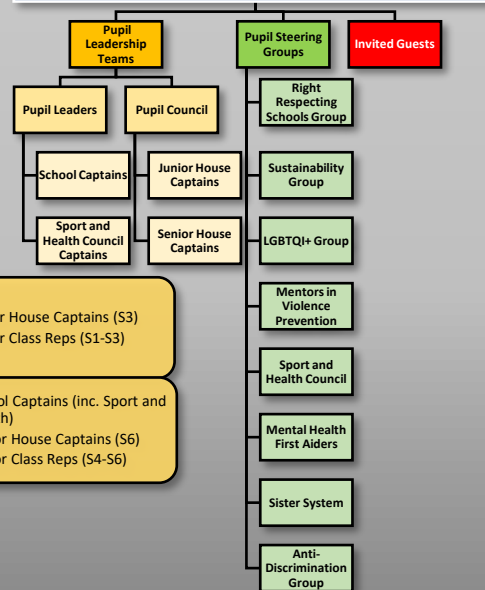
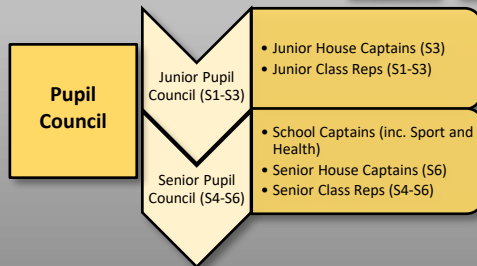
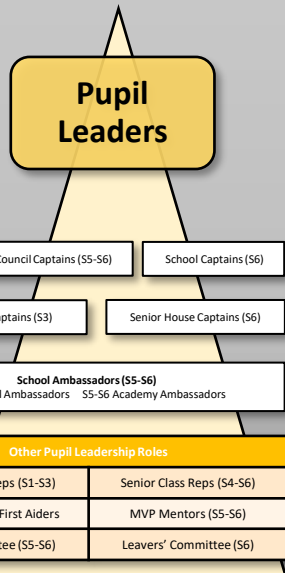
Our pupils will develop the leadership skills required to develop reasoned opinions, and persuade others that positive change is possible.



We will acknowledge and celebrate the many and varied ways in which pupils' input has improved our school's practice.



The views of all pupils (including those who may find aspects of school challenging) will be taken seriously and - where possible - acted on.



# Pupil Empowerment at Bellahouston Academy

Pupil Focus Groups/Surveys	Pupil Steering Groups		Pupil Leaders		Pupil Council (Supported by Ms Notman)	Pupil Parliament (Supported by Mr Devlin)
<p>We want as many pupils as possible to give their views on the most important things we do as a school. On a regular basis, we will ask pupils - using surveys and Focus Groups - to tell us their thoughts about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Their learning;</li> <li>• Our curriculum;</li> <li>• Their wellbeing;</li> <li>• Our school environment;</li> <li>• Our clubs, excursions and events;</li> <li>• Our school's ethos.</li> </ul> <p>We are very interested to know what our pupils think we do well, and what they think we can do better. We will do our best to take our pupils' views into account when we are making positive changes to improve the way in which our school works.</p> <p>On occasion, if a pupil or group of pupils make us aware of views that seem particularly helpful or useful, we will ask them to attend the Pupil Parliament, so they can give the staff and pupil representatives a more detailed impression of their thoughts.</p> <p>These Focus Groups and Surveys are led by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Principal Teachers and Faculty Heads</li> <li>• Senior Leadership Team</li> <li>• Other members of staff</li> </ul>	<p><b>Rights Respecting Schools Group</b> (Supported by Ms Murray)</p>	<p>Promote our Rights Respecting Schools Charter, and make our school a more rights-respecting place.</p>	<p><b>School Captains</b> (Supported by Ms Nizam)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Represent Bellahouston Academy, its pupils and our values at school functions;</li> <li>• Chair the Pupil Council;</li> <li>• Lead and support the work of the Prom Committee and the Leavers' Committee;</li> <li>• Co-ordinate the work of House Captains.</li> </ul>	<p>The focus of the Pupil Council is on creating opportunities for pupils from different year groups and house groups to come together, discuss the issues most important to them, and agree on the positive changes they would like to see in our school. The Pupil Council will look to identify the priorities they think will give most benefit for pupils, and will bring their most significant ideas to the Pupil Parliament.</p> <p>On occasion, the Pupil Council may be asked by staff to discuss particular important issues, so that teachers can better understand pupil views on these matters.</p> <p>The Pupil Council is attended by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Captains (Chair);</li> <li>• Sport and Health Council Captains;</li> <li>• Junior and Senior House Captains;</li> <li>• Junior and Senior Class Reps;</li> <li>• Ms Notman (Staff Link).</li> </ul> <p>The Pupil Council meets once per month, or as agreed.</p>	<p>The focus of the Pupil Parliament is on delivering the positive changes and the outcomes our pupils would like to see in our school. At the Pupil Parliament, pupils will meet with members of the school's Senior Leadership Team, to discuss the ways in which they are promoting positive change in our school, and seek the support of the school's Senior Leadership Team in making these changes a reality.</p> <p>At the Pupil Parliament, pupils will have the opportunity to see links between the work of different steering and leadership groups, and come together to support each other in driving positive change.</p> <p>The Pupil Parliament is attended by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Devlin (Staff Chair)</li> <li>• School Captains</li> <li>• Sport and Health Council Captains</li> <li>• Junior and Senior House Captains</li> <li>• A representative from each of the Pupil Steering Groups</li> <li>• Invited pupils</li> <li>• Mr Mochan (Headteacher)</li> <li>• Invited members of staff</li> </ul> <p>The Pupil Parliament meets once per month, or as agreed.</p> <p>After each meeting, we will publish details of how pupil views have been actioned.</p>
	<p><b>Sustainability Group</b> (Supported by Mr Williams)</p>	<p>Promote learning for sustainability, and make our school a more environmentally sound and sustainable place.</p>	<p><b>Sport and Health Council Captains</b> (Supported by Ms Brown)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the value of participation in physical activity and sport;</li> <li>• Promote and encourage participation in school events which involve physical activity and sport.</li> </ul>		
	<p><b>LGBTQI+ Group</b> (Supported by Mr Ruiseil)</p>	<p>Promote the rights of pupils within the LGBTQI+ community, and ensure that the school is a fully inclusive place.</p>	<p><b>Senior and Junior House Captains</b> (Supported by Ms Nizam and Principal Teachers of Pastoral Care)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote House Identity and participation in House Activities;</li> <li>• Co-ordinate the Merit System within House Groups;</li> <li>• Raise, at Pupil Council, the issues they have been asked to discuss by their class reps;</li> <li>• Attend Pupil Parliament meetings, and advocate for changes their House wish to see made in the school.</li> </ul>		
	<p><b>Mentors in Violence Prevention</b> (Supported by Mr Atha, Mr Johnston and Mr Perkins)</p>	<p>Promote a safe, calm and positive school environment for all young people.</p>				
	<p><b>Sport and Health Council</b> (Supported by Ms Brown)</p>	<p>Promote physical activity and participation in sport in order to cultivate positive mental and physical wellbeing</p>	<p><b>S5-S6 Pupil Ambassadors</b> (Supported by Ms Mohammed)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the wellbeing and engagement of younger pupils in Tutor classes by encouraging pupils to respect the school values, and participate in clubs, excursions and events;</li> <li>• Mentor those in need of targeted support.</li> </ul>		
	<p><b>Mental Health First Aid</b> (Supported by Ms McWhinnie)</p>	<p>Promote positive mental health and wellbeing for all young people</p>	<p><b>S5-S6 Academy Ambassadors</b> (Supported by Ms Notman)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the learning of younger pupils in particular subject areas in subject classes;</li> <li>• Support the learning of younger pupils at homework clubs and supported study.</li> </ul>		
	<p><b>Sister System</b> (Supported by Ms McWaters)</p>	<p>Promote the rights of pupils who identify as female, and ensure that the school is a fully inclusive place.</p>	<p><b>Junior and Senior Class Reps</b> (Supported by Principal Teachers of Pastoral Care and by Tutor Teachers)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regularly ask all pupils within their Tutor Class if there are any issues they would like to see discussed at Pupil Council;</li> <li>• Ensure their House Captains are made aware of the issues their classmates would like to see discussed at the Pupil Council Meeting;</li> <li>• Attend Pupil Council meetings and advocate for the changes their Tutor Class wish to see made in the school.</li> </ul>		
	<p><b>Anti-Discrimination Group</b> (Supported by Ms Morran and Mr Samsudeen)</p>	<p>Promote the rights of pupils from a diverse range of ethnicities, races, cultures, and heritages, and ensure that the school is a fully inclusive place</p>				



# Bellahouston Academy Pupil Parliament

## Our Constitution

### Aims

- The key aim of the Pupil Parliament is to empower our young people, and give them a voice in leading positive change which shapes our school improvement journey. Its other aims are:
  - To promote our values: Belonging, Aspiration, Growth, Achievement and Respect;
  - To uphold our Rights Respecting Schools Charter - the rights: to non-discrimination; to education; to protection from violence, abuse and neglect; and to respect for the views of the child;
  - To ensure all pupils - regardless of background, circumstances or other characteristics - are fairly and equally consulted and represented in discussions about school improvement;
  - To help make the school a more welcoming and inclusive place for all;
  - To build relationships between Pupil Leadership Groups, Pupil Steering Groups, and school staff, so that they can work together to bring about positive change

### Our Meetings

- The Pupil Parliament will meet once per month. Other meetings - perhaps to discuss particular issues at certain points of the school session - can be arranged as required.
- Meetings will be attended by a Pupil Representative from each of our Pupil Steering Groups and Pupil Leadership Teams, by at least one Staff Representative, and by the Headteacher.
- Meetings will be co-chaired by a Pupil Chair and a Staff Chair, both of whom will be elected by other members of the Pupil Parliament.
- Pupil Representatives, the Staff Representative and the Headteacher may invite guests to Pupil Parliament meetings, if the proposed guest is able to contribute positively. Any proposed invitations should be made known to the Pupil and Staff Chair at least three school days before the scheduled Pupil Parliament Meeting.
- Before each meeting, Pupil Representatives should take time to seek out the views of other pupils, regarding which ideas should be discussed at the Pupil Parliament.
- The Pupil Chair and Staff Chair will produce an agenda for the meeting, identifying the issues which will be discussed; if Pupil or Staff Representatives would like an issue added to the agenda, or have an idea for school improvements, they should make the Pupil Chair and Staff Chair aware of this at least three school days before the scheduled Pupil Parliament Meeting.
- At the beginning of each meeting, all Pupil Representatives will update the Pupil Parliament on what their Pupil Steering Group or Pupil Leadership Group has achieved or has been discussing since the previous meeting.

### Representation

- Our school community is richly diverse in many important ways, and our Pupil Parliament should reflect and celebrate this diversity at all times.
- All Pupil Representatives must ensure that the views of other pupils - not necessarily just their own views - are discussed at Pupil Parliament meetings.

### Leading Change

- We will use the following discussion questions when discussing ideas we have for school improvement, to ensure that we are acting in the best interests of the whole school:
  - Does the proposed idea or change reflect the school values and/or our Rights Respecting Schools Charter?
  - Who would benefit from the proposed idea or change, and who might be disadvantaged?
  - Can we make any changes that might arise from this idea, and whose help would we need to make these changes?
  - What resources do we need in order to support this idea or change?
  - How would we know, in time, that the idea or change had been successful?
- If, following discussion, an idea or change appears beneficial, it will be put to a vote, in order to see if the Pupil Parliament agree that it should be actioned.
- All pupils and staff in attendance have one vote each. A majority is required for a vote to pass.
- All ideas should be treated with respect and courtesy by all Pupil Parliament members.

### Communication

- We will keep a minute of what has been discussed and agreed at our meetings, and publish these minutes on the Pupil Parliament noticeboard, so that all pupils are kept updated.
- We will use the bulletin to give pupils a summary of the most important ideas discussed and the most significant decisions taken at our meetings.
- All Pupil Representatives should decide on the best way to communicate regularly with other pupils (e.g. visiting Tutor or PHSE classes, using Microsoft Teams, using the Pupil Parliament, Pupil Steering Group or Pupil Leadership Teams notice boards, or other appropriate means).
- A report on progress made by the Pupil Parliament will be published on the school website at the end of each session.

**This constitution was co-designed in November 2023 by the pupils and staff involved in the formation of our school's Pupil Parliament. We will use this constitution to guide the ways in which we work together, as we seek to improve our school.**