St James’ Primary School (Renfrew)

Pupil Council Policy

2023-24

Through implementing a Pupil Council, we aim to encourage pupils to:

• Develop confidence and responsibility and make the most of their abilities.

• Prepare them to play an active role as citizens.

• Develop healthy, safer lifestyles.

• Develop good relationships and respect the differences between people.

• Have a “voice” and to share their opinions and ideas with others.

Our Pupil Council aims to ensure our children have:

• A safe, happy, but fair learning environment.

• A forum to voice their concerns and act upon them.

• A structured opportunity to learn problem-solving skills.

• An opportunity to take an active role in the organisation of the school.

• An opportunity to experience a democratic process.

Our Pupil Council should encourage pupils to develop:

• An ownership of new initiatives.

• An agreement over school issues.

• The responsibility towards the school community and environment.

Our Pupil Council should give pupils experience of:

• Planning, organising and monitoring small projects.

• Listening and talking skills.

• Mediation and negotiating skills.

• Basic budgeting and managing money.

Our pupil council aims to prepare our pupils for citizenship by teaching them about roles, rights and responsibilities within the school system.

**WHAT IS OUR PUPIL COUNCIL FOR?**

The pupil council is about:

• Learning to work together.

• Learning to give everyone a voice.

• Learning how to play a positive role in our community.

• Learning to develop healthy, safer lifestyles.

• Creating a safe, happy but fair learning environment.

The pupil council’s job is to involve everyone, not do everything. It needs to get everyone:

• Finding things they want to change.

• Coming up with ways to make them better.

• Putting those ideas in to action.

• Seeing what works (evaluating)

The Constitution of the Pupil Council

• The Pupil Council will be made up of a representative from each class from P4 to P7. P1-3 will have one representative from each year group.

• The Pupil Council will at least meet once a month.

• The Pupil Council will elect a chairperson, vice chairperson and a secretary.

• The Chair, the Vice-Chair and Principal Teacher (Mr Moran) are responsible for running meetings, giving everyone an equal chance to have their say, and making sure the Council comes up with practical solutions to problems.

• Mr Moran/Secretary will take minutes of the Pupil Council meetings. These will be displayed on the Pupil Council display board.

• Feedback will be provided from each Pupil Council Meeting through minutes from the meetings available on the Pupil Council noticeboard and through feedback direct to the class council from its representative.

Responsibilities of Pupil Councillors:

• Class representatives will report to their class after every Pupil Council meeting.

• Class representatives will take issues brought up by their class to the Pupil Council. They should put across the views of the class, not their own opinions.

• Pupil council members will always be positive.