**The Student Council in St Joseph’s Fairview**

**Introduction**

A Student Council is a representative structure for students only, 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.

Usually the student council works with a teacher, who is the link person between students and staff and management in the school. He or she attends student council meetings and provides guidance, advice and information if requested, and organizes training and team development activities and any in-services which are essential to the running of a good Student Council. This teacher also assists the students in liaising with the management.

**Role of the Student Council**

* To create in cooperation with the Principal, staff and students, a better school life for the student of our school.
* To provide students with opportunities of leadership and to develop in all students a sense of responsibility.
* To encourage the students in the school to become more aware of how the school is run and to constructively identify and express their needs.
* To contribute to overall school development by being involved in school policy development and to be a resource in working in partnership with the management of the school.
* To act as liaison where appropriate between the students and the teaching staff and management.

**Structure of the Student Council**

The council will consist of one democratically elected representative of each first, second, third, TY, fifth and sixth year classes. However, subject to the advice of the Student Council Liaison teacher other students may be co-opted onto the Student Council. If an elected member of the council fails continually to attend meetings despite being continually informed he may be dismissed by the council and another student elected or co-opted for that particular class.

In selecting the Council the following general points are followed:

* Elections where there is no one unanimous candidate in any class.
* Elections will be democratic and by secret ballot.
* Only the students will vote in Student Council elections.
* Each student will have only one vote.
* Students will be invited to put their names forward for election.
* To run for the council, a student must be proposed and seconded by members of their class.
* If there is more than one candidate going forward an election will be held. If there is only one candidate they are deemed elected once they have been proposed and seconded.
* Ballot papers will be produced.
* The votes will be counted by a nominated teacher/s or Year Head and kept for verification.

**Term of Office**

Each member will serve for the duration of his time as student in the school or until he resigns from the council. In the case of all such resignations, a replacement shall be chosen from that particular class either by nomination and seconding or by election as outlined above.

**Officers / Activities**

After the council has been formed, the entire council must elect the following officers:

Chairperson

Deputy Chairperson

Secretary

Treasurer

* These positions will be filled by a democratic secret ballot.
* The chairperson will run the meeting, adhere to the agenda and direct all comments through the chair. The Chairperson will endeavour to ensure that all council members have the chance to express their views.
* The Vice Chairperson will act in the absence of the Chairperson or Secretary.
* The Secretary will record the minutes in a designated minute book.
* The Treasurer will manage Student Council funds and report on financial affairs to a meeting.
* All members will report back to their classes on matters discussed at meetings and bring issues raised by their classmates at meetings.

**Meetings**

The Student Council will meet weekly where possible at a time to be agreed in Resource Room 1. The student Council Liaison Officer will usually be present at all meetings. The teacher will assist in the smooth running of the meeting but, in as far as is possible, students should run their affairs entirely on their own initiative. For any major decision to be voted on or agreed, at least two thirds of the council must be present at the meeting.

Any changes to this constitution must be voted upon by the Student Council. The constitution will be reviewed yearly or as appropriate. At least two thirds of the council must be present at any vote to change the constitution.