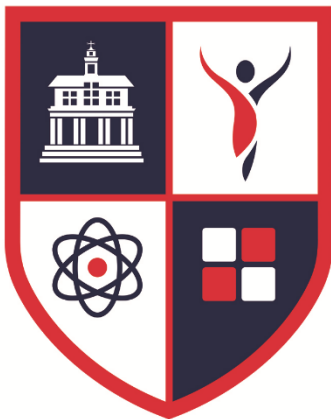




CHILDWALL
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Student Voice and Leadership Policy



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LYDIATE
LEARNING TRUST

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Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) states that national governments shall:

'Assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.'

Protecting and enhancing the right of children and young people to be heard and participate meaningfully in decisions that affect their lives is a key duty of the state in a democratic society. It is, therefore, a particularly important principle in the context of the state's responsibilities for ensuring universal access to high-quality education.

Student voice activities should make a positive and demonstrable contribution to the life of the school.

Childwall Sports and Science Academy believes that student voice is most effective where it encourages pupils to become involved in projects and activities that enable them to enact genuine change within their schools, their communities or the wider world. Student voice activities should not be run for their own sake or simply to enable the school to comply with external requirements. Student voice activities must not undermine teachers' professional authority and must not compromise other fundamental rights of children and young people.

Childwall Sports and Science Academy is committed to involving students in its decision-making and operational management processes. Childwall Sports and Science Academy firmly believes that embracing student views and offering an opportunity for students to have direct involvement in assessing and shaping their own learning experience will have a significant impact on developing the academy's quality improvement processes and increasing student success. Student participation and representation bring to life the British value of democracy.

Benefits of student voice

There are several benefits of effective student voice to Childwall Sports and Science Academy and to the students.

To Students:

- improved participation, retention, achievement and progression
- improved feedback on the students' experience informs quality improvements
- students become empowered, more self-confident and motivated
- students learn the British value of democracy
- students have the opportunity to become directly involved in social action for the benefit of others
- services and facilities are improved to better meet the needs of students
- identification and sharing of good practice
- promotion of an environment of mutual respect

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To Academy:

- improved participation, retention, achievement and progression
- students who are more expert and independent
- better quality information about the students' perspective so improvements can be made
- better decisions about resource allocation and investment
- students who feel more involved, see the academy as a place where they belong and are motivated to put something back into the academy
- enhanced academy reputation within the community

Examples of student voice activities could include:

- redeveloping/ designing school uniforms
- Developing and designing an academy charter
- curriculum development and planning
- behaviour and rewards system development
- taking part in regular surveys to measure student engagement and finding out student views on a range of issues such as safety, rewards and behaviour.
- involvement in the Student Council and Liverpool Schools Parliament
- environmental improvements to the academy, designation and redevelopment of physical equipment or recreational areas
- setting up and running recycling initiatives
- involvement in community projects such as working with charities and outside organisations that support the most vulnerable in society; or developing and maintaining global links.
- Activities of this nature enable students to take responsibility for their learning and develop skills, including problem-solving; negotiation; fundraising; and project management. Through these initiatives' students recognise the symbiotic relationship between the rights that they can exercise and the responsibilities that they have.

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Student Leadership Council at Childwall Sports and Science Academy

Intent

- To give students a voice about the life in the academy
- To give students a platform for their views to be heard
- Opportunity for public speaking
- Opportunity to develop leadership by organising and carrying out school activities
- Help share student ideas, interests and concerns with the school wider community
- Based upon parliamentary procedures, ideas are voted upon and confirmed
- To develop a student council which has different roles for each member

Mission Statement

Student Leadership Council is a school wide organisation to promote involvement, ownership, leadership and stewardship in our school. The council is designed to give students a voice. Students will learn the democratic process, the appropriate ways to affect change and develop their ability to interact with peers, teachers, senior leaders, governors and the wider community. They represent the student body. We promote British Values, pride, well-being and stand to serve the school community.

Student council are a part of the Liverpool Schools Parliament. This has given the knowledge and understanding of the parliamentary procedures and the democratic process. They have had the opportunities to be involved with issues and concerns around Liverpool and how to improve the city for the better. Through this involvement Student Council representatives have worked with external agencies through the NHS to design Health Walks for patients and doctors to use within the local practice. We also won a grant of £2000 towards Duke of Edinburgh award to be used for equipment.

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Student Leadership Council Structure

Student Leadership is an integral part of Childwall Sports and Science Academy throughout Years 7-13. Students are either elected by peers or staff or rewarded their roles due to their achievements in all or different areas of the academy.

Childwall Student Leadership team is made up of the following roles:

Senior Council Leaders

The Student Council Leadership team is led by a group of 6th form and year 11 students. They are a positive role model to all students, enthusiastic and committed to the academy. They lead the school council and make a positive difference to the school.

School Leaders Council

The school council involves students from each year group that are elected from each form group. These students are actively involved in decision making and regularly lead on whole school projects, ensuring the voice of each student is heard.

Lead Learners Ambassadors

A lead learner is a student who is recognised for being responsible, mature, organised, always completing their homework, proactive, asking questions, independent and resilient. They consistently achieve excellent behaviour, attitude to learning and attendance reports. They are actively involved in the academy ethos.

Student ambassadors

These students are selected by staff as they are fully committed to one area within the academy. They will work on projects connected to this and be ambassadors for these areas.

- Reading Leaders
- Numeracy Leaders
- Form Captains
- Sport Captain
- Eco Leaders
- Charity Leaders
- Inclusion Leaders

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