



Pupil Parliament and Class Council

Rationale

Updated September 2023

Our Pupil Parliament and Class Councils aim to support an empowered system within St Margaret's Primary School and ELCC. Their purpose is to include all pupils in the self evaluation and decision making processes of the school.

Education Scotland sets out the principles of an empowered system for learners.

In an empowered system, learners:

- *participate as underpinned by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, most notably Article 12 (respect for the views of the child) and Article 13 (freedom of expression);*
- *are enabled to engage in planning and leading their learning, and to have meaningful dialogue about approaches to learning and teaching;*
- *are clear about how they can share their ideas and have a role in leading and shaping change through clear systems for engaging them in participating, which are agreed, understood and used regularly; and*
- *understand and see the impacts of their participation in their learning, in their setting, and in local and global communities.*

(Education Scotland, An Empowered System, 2020:2)

Each class council and pupil parliament is designed to have a specific focus on improving St Margaret's Primary School.

The Pupil Parliament and Class Councils promote pupil leadership opportunities, enabling children to develop valuable communication, organisation and debating skills through key roles of responsibility.

Pupil Parliament and Class Councils benefit the whole school, pupils and teachers by providing opportunities for pupils to communicate their opinions as well as influence the decisions that are made on their behalf. Pupils relish the opportunity to become a greater part of school life and enjoy making their voices heard.

The aims of the Pupil Parliament and Class Councils

- Represent all pupils.
- Take time to listen to all pupils and communicate their views.
- Feed back to pupils about how their views have been used.
- Action decisions that have been made or explain why they can't happen.

How does the Pupil Parliament and Class Council system work?

The Pupil Parliament is made up of one pupil from each class each term, elected as the Pupil Voice Representative. These elected pupils then become the representatives for that particular area of school improvement. The Class Councils involve every member of the class and are led by their Pupil Voice Representative (supported by the class teacher).

The Class Councils meet at the beginning of the term as a whole class and discuss a key area of school improvement.

Pupil Voice representatives supported by the class teacher summarise three key themes from their discussion.

Pupil Voice Representatives attend the Pupil Parliament meeting where a key area of school improvement is discussed.

Pupil Voice Representatives supported by their teacher will share the decisions made and actions taken with their class to ensure that all pupils are kept informed.

Our Class Council discussions for session 2023-2024 will reflect the current needs of the school. The areas we will focus on are:-

Our Learning and Teaching (HGIOurS Theme 2)

Our Successes and Achievements (HGIOurS Theme 5)