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**Pupil Voice Policy**

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| **Date the policy came into effect** | **November 2022** |
| **Reviewed** | **November 2022** |
| **Name of person responsible for this policy** | **School Council, SLT, Board of Governors** |
| **Other related policies** | **T&L, Pastoral Care, Wellbeing, safeguarding and Child Protection, Trauma Informed** |
| **Issued to** | **Staff, parents, pupils, Board of Governors** |

**Euston Street Primary School & Nursery Unit**

**Pupil Voice Policy**

**Mission**

*‘Achieving Excellence Together’*

 *‘To work together for excellence in: our learning; our school; our community; and our future’.*

Our purpose therefore is to be an excellent school. We continually strive for excellence in every area of school life. To achieve this aim we must always have the right school **vision and values** and these must be at the heart of all that we do, including our School Development Plan.

**Vision**

In order to achieve excellence in each aspect of school life, our vision is:

 *'To create a safe, happy learning community. A community where together, we inspire and equip our pupils so that they fulfil their potential, use their talents and follow their dreams now and always.’*

**Values**

We believe that our school is a place where the child is at the centre.

*‘We value kindness, integrity, hard work and mutual respect.'*

Good attendance at school is essential for a pupil’s education and establishes a positive working ethos early in life.

**Introduction**

The purpose of this policy, as with all of our policies, is to support us as we strive for excellence in every area of school life. To achieve this, we must always have the right school **vision and values** and these must be at the heart of all that we do, including our engagement with parents and guardians.

We believe that pupils need to be part of their own education so that they feel their opinions are heard in their school community.

In ESPS pupils are involved in decision-making so that they are real partners in school life. We believe that pupil voices give a very positive ethos to our school.



**Rights Respecting School**

ESPS is a Rights Respecting School (RRS). We allow pupils to have a voice in matters that affect them, and we work hard to make sure everyone feels included and equal.

Article 12 – I have the right to voice my opinion and be listened to

Article 29 – Education must develop me as a person

**Pupil Voice activities at Euston Street PS**

There are lots of ways that pupils’ voices are heard in ESPS including but not only:

* School Council
* Pupil Voice for every pupil each year
* Pupil Voice Team
* Eco Committee leadership
* Language Champions leadership
* Digital Leaders leadership
* Art Gallery leadership
* PSA and School Council forum
* Board of Governors and School Council forum
* Chatter Boxes
* School of Sanctuary leadership
* Playground Buddy leadership
* Reading Buddies
* House Captains and Vice-Captains leadership
* Leadership slots in assembly
* Pupil Voice in learning plans (Pupil Learning Plans)
* Pupil Voice in Pupil Improvement Plans)
* Pupil Voice in Management Plans for SEBW

**Curriculum**

Pupil Voice is also heard in our curriculum, with teaching and learning activities being used to help pupils make informed decisions about their lives, their health and well-being, and the environment, for example. Extra-curricular activities, such as Eco Committee, also give pupils an opportunity to explore local and global issues outside of the classroom and the school.

**School Council**

One of the principle means by which pupil voice activity is progressed in school is by the use of our School Council. We believe that our school council will enhance and influence positive peer leadership and mutual responsibility throughout the school.

School Council will:

* Be a positive forum
* Provide an opportunity for all children to be heard
* Provide a forum for the leadership of the school to listen to children’s knowledge and opinions
* Help the school set targets for the SDP
* Aid communication throughout the school
* Build the children’s confidence and self-esteem
* Encourage the children to be active citizens
* Provide the children with a democratic model

School Council will also be used to assist the School Senior Leadership (SLT) in the whole school self-evaluation procedures and enable us all to be more accountable to the whole school community.

**School Council in Practice**

School Council organise the recruitment of their own members, using a voting system that involves all pupils of the school, ensuring representation of all year groups in Years 4 - 7. Every class elects at least two School Council Representatives. School Council membership will consist of a member of staff, who will support the council members, the Council members, and will on occasion include meetings with parents, staff, senior leadership and the Board of Governors.

Meetings take place each month or as required. At each meeting the School Council Representatives will discuss a range of items from school development and pupil wellbeing. The School council get opportunity to feedback to the whole school during assembly.

School Council meetings follow a format of all committees and pupils are encouraged to ensure the process is correct and recorded.

**School of Sanctuary**

The School of Sanctuary leadership have meetings to discuss how ESPS can be a more inclusive place for all of the school community. They meet each Term with the Inclusion and Diversity school leaders. The SOS leadership also help organise inclusion and equality events in the school.

**School leadership**

We have a large number of opportunities for pupils to be involved in leading areas of our school including:

* Pupil Voice Team
* Eco Committee leadership
* Language Champions leadership
* Digital Leaders leadership
* Art Gallery leadership
* School of Sanctuary leadership
* Playground Buddy leadership
* Reading Buddies
* House Captains and Vice-Captains leadership
* Leadership slots in assembly

These leadership opportunities mean pupils in ESPS get experience of taking part in training, organising, emailing, discussing, and buying resources for the school. In these activities their voices are heard and they learn all the important life skills of making decisions, problem solving, managing information and working with others.

**Involving pupils in their own learning**

Pupil participation in their own learning is important as it helps support improvements in standards and attainment. Pupil Voice in learning includes involvement in setting WAU targets, personal learning targets, peer and self-assessment, describing verbal feedback targets and having many leadership opportunities and training.

Assessment for Learning encourages pupil discussion about their learning as an essential part of everyday classroom life.

**Wellbeing, Pastoral Care and Safeguarding**

Pupils in ESPS are also given a voice through a variety of support mechanisms. Pupils can voice their concerns, worries or ideas through:

* School Council
* Barnardo’s counselling
* Pupil Voice
* Chatter Boxes
* Wellbeing surveys
* Wellbeing Week activities
* RRS activities

**Benefits of pupil involvement**

Having a voice in school has lots of benefits. Pupils can have increased confidence and feelings of involvement, and a greater sense of responsibility.

Behaviour can improve with pupils taking greater responsibility for their own behaviour, as well as improved learning.

We believe that there is a positive impact of pupil participation on their own work and the school environment.

Children’s insight into the ways they learn best and the ideas that they have for lesson content and style as well as their ideas on the life of the school should be welcomed. Pupils’ learning will improve when their views are taken into consideration. This can only have a positive impact on raising standards.

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

School Council meetings are recorded.

Pupil Voice are monitored and evaluated by the SLT. Pupil Voice results and comments are shared with the whole school community.