

Terenure College Senior School



Student Council Constitution

The Student Council of Terenure College is an elected representative student body that participates in the life of the school and community. Its objective is to promote initiative, enthusiasm, pride and cooperation among the students through their participation and involvement in student government. It also exists to enhance communication between students, staff and parents. It will represent the views of the students on matters of school policy, and other matter of general concern to students.

The Student Council shall strive to create a spirit of cooperation between the School Administration and the student body. It is not a forum for the discussion of individuals or matters of discipline or disagreements between students and teachers/school management

Membership:

1. The Student Council will comprise elected representatives from each year group.
2. First to Fourth year will elect a representative from each base class. These individuals will be elected by their base class.
3. Fifth year will each elect 10 representatives.
4. Sixth year will be represented by those elected under the existing Prefect elections.
5. A teacher nominated by the Principal will act as liaison between the council and the school administration and as an advisor to the council.
6. The elected School Captain will serve as Council President; the elected Vice Captain will serve as Council Vice President.

Elections:

1. Elections are open to all students though the Principal reserves the right to prohibit the participation of any individual who is deemed unsuitable due to his disciplinary record.
2. Any elected representative who wishes to decline his seat will be replaced by the candidate, from the same class or year group, with the closest number of votes.
3. Elections for representatives of all years except 1st year will be held in the last term of each academic year for the following year's council. Elections for 1st year will take place in the week after the first mid-term break.¹
4. In the event of an elected representative failing to return to the school for the following academic year a replacement may be co-opted (with the approval of the Principal) from the given year group.
5. The term of office of the Council will be the academic year.

¹ Rules governing the election of representatives will be determined by the School Principal.

Officers:

1. The officers of the Student Council will be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
2. The Secretary and Treasurer will be elected at the first General Meeting of the Student Council. They must be representatives of 4th, 5th or 6th year.
3. The Student Council will elect sub-committee heads from the body of the council. These members and the Council Officers will constitute the Executive Committee.
3. The President will conduct the affairs of the Student Council with the assistance of the liaising Teacher.
4. The President will preside at executive meetings and at all General Meetings. He will prepare an agenda for all meetings of the Executive and all General Meetings.
5. The President will have the casting vote in the event of any inconclusive ballots.
6. The Vice President will assume the duties of the president in his absence.

Meetings:

1. The first General Meeting of the Student Council will take place following the election of the School Captain.
2. A calendar for meetings for the year will be set forth at the first meeting.
3. General Meetings will be held at least once a term. They may be held as often as necessary. A schedule for General Meetings will be drawn up at first General Meeting.
4. All Student Council members must attend all General Meetings. Failure to attend (without Council approval) will result in the expulsion of any member from the Council. At least one week's notice of meetings will be given.
5. Repeated failure to attend sub-committee meetings may result in expulsion from the Council. The number of unacceptable absences will be determined by the Executive.
5. A Standing Committee will be appointed to deal with class election. This committee will be headed by the Vice- President.
6. The Secretary will take minutes at Executive and General Meetings.
7. Minutes of sub-committee meetings will be taken by a member of each committee to be elected at the first meeting of the committee. A copy of the minutes is to be forwarded to the Executive.
8. The Treasurer will handle the financial affairs of the Student Council in accordance with the school requirements. He will report the status at each meeting.
9. Copies of the minutes of all Council and Executive meetings are to be forwarded to the Principal.
10. An annual report of Student Council activities is to be submitted to the College Principal.

Sub-Committees:

Sub-committees will be created to manage student participation in the life of the school. Some of the following areas might be considered:

a. Fundraising Committee:

The aim of such a committee would be to identify charities to be supported on an annual basis. The committee might then determine how best the student body might raise funds and raise awareness of the issues related to a given charity.

b. School Environment Committee:

The aim of such a committee would be to help the student body take a role in the maintenance and development of the school environment. It would also raise an awareness of environmental issues.

c. Student Activities Committee:

The aim of such a committee would be to assist in the promotion of the extra curricular life of the school.

d. Campus Ministry Committee:

The aim of such a committee would be to facilitate student involvement in the pastoral care and spiritual life of the school.

e. Communication Committee:

The aim of such a committee would be to encourage and facilitate communication between the Student Council and the student body, as well as between the Council and the school management.

Notes:

1. The schedule of the activities promoted by the Student Council and its sub-committees must be approved by the Principal.
2. Each activity/campaign will be run by a sub-committee appointed at the first General Meeting. Each sub-committee will be led by a committee chair elected from the general Council body.
3. Non Council members may be co-opted to individual sub-committees, subject to the approval of the Liaising Teacher.
4. Additional or alternative sub-committees may arise but are subject to the approval of the School Principal.
5. The Principal, Deputy Principal and Liaison Teacher are ex-officio members of each committee and have the right to attend and participate in all Council and sub-committee meetings.
6. The School Management reserves the right to amend the Constitution and to create any additional rules that are necessary for the running of the Council.
7. The School Management reserves the right to take any steps necessary to ensure that the council adheres to its constitution and the spirit in which the council was established.

16th September 2009