



# The student voice

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# What is the student voice?

- The thoughts and opinions of all school students
- These areas can be wide and varied
- It can be expressed individually, in groups or by representatives of students
- Often it is a silent voice, but it still has value
- The student voice requires encouragement to further expression
- It isn't always critical, and can be supportive and a source for good
- Thoughts and opinions develop and change as students grow older and mature
- Everyone's opinion is respected, but not always used

# Why is the student voice so important?

- Because personal opinions and views are important
- Development of the individual can be encouraged by participating
- It is important to know that you are heard no matter how alone your voice is
- People may actually have a very important point of view that has not yet been considered
- It helps understanding of individuals, problems, groups, points of view and the school community
- It alerts people to unsavoury views, opinions and bigotry
- If students do not express their views, no-one would know what they were interested in, thinking, concerned about etc.
- Because the students of today will become the adults, teachers, workers and leaders of tomorrow
- It is important to know that you have contributed to outcomes

# How can we make the students voice heard?

- At school
  - Hold a School Council with representatives from each form
  - These representatives would collect matters important to students, discuss at the Council and present them to the Headmaster
  - Opinions from students to the School Council could be in person, or in writing on a “suggestion form”
  - A “suggestion form” could also be introduced so that issues went straight to senior staff
  - Talk to Form Tutors and other senior members of staff
  - The Student Council could produce it’s own newsletter
  - Hold a “debating-day” when important issues can be discussed in an open forum, like at Speakers Corner in London
  - Promote other ways in which the “*student voice*” can be heard

- Locally

- A meeting of selected School Council representatives from across the town to discuss issues of common interest
- Meetings with staff, parents and local people to discuss issues that effect the school and students
- Discuss issues with local Councillors
- Raise awareness in the local media

- Nationally

- Discuss matters with the local MP
- Write to the Government and Pressure Groups
- Attend national meetings and conferences

# So don't forget !!

- The thoughts and opinions of all school students
- The student voice requires encouragement to further expression
- Everyone's opinion is respected, but not always used
- the students of today will become the adults, teachers, workers and leaders of tomorrow
- It is important to know that you are heard no matter how alone your voice is



The end

Thank you