



ICSMILAN
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
Shaping the world

SCHOOL STUDENT AND CLASS COUNCIL POLICY

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UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



Article 12

Children should have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account

Article 13

Children have the right to get and to share information as long as the information is not damaging to them or to others

Article 15

Children have the right to meet together and to join groups and organisations as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.

Rationale

The Student Council allows students to take responsibility for themselves and others and gives students a 'voice'. It encourages them to make a positive contribution to their school, its environment and ethos. The Council promotes a sense of community within school and is used to support and develop citizenship. It encourages teamwork and helps to improve speaking, listening and Leadership skills. It encourages resilience, reciprocity, reflection and resourcefulness.

Introduction

At ICS Milan, we have student representatives who take part in Class and Student Council meetings. These councils are in place so that students have a voice and are involved in decisions about the school that affect them.

Being Healthy

Developing confidence, communication skills, and being happier as a result of being involved with school and class councils, helps students develop emotional resilience. Students also help make their peers healthier by improving school issues such as food and promoting physical activity.

Staying Safe

School councils engender peer leadership, openness and awareness. These qualities help make schools safer and happier places. Quite possibly the most effective anti-bullying schemes are driven by students.

Enjoying and Achieving

By taking the opportunity to become involved in the school community, essential life skills such as listening, diplomacy, compromise and communication are developed. Participation structures in school help raise attainment by improving the learning environment.

Making a Positive Contribution

Through school councils, students's belief in their ability to make a difference develops. Life skills learnt through active participation enable students to contribute to their community and wider society.

School Council/Class Council Structure

Class Council

Through Class Council, all students have the opportunity to raise issues, share ideas and take part in discussions that involve all of their classmates in reaching a democratic solution.

Wider issues that arise at Class Council are discussed further at School Council. This ensures that as many student voices as possible are heard. Students at ICS Milan know that this is their school and their thoughts and ideas matter.

School Council

The School Council is about:

- Learning to work together
- Learning about democracy
- Learning how to play a positive role in our community

The School Council's job is to involve everyone, not do everything. It needs to get everyone:

- Finding things, they want to change
- Coming up with ways to make them better
- Putting those ideas into action
- Seeing what works (evaluating)

How Does our Class Council Work?

- Our whole class has a meeting every month
- The Class Council discuss important matters
- The class then vote for two important things to take to School Council to be discussed
- The school Council members then report back to the class

What will the School Council do for our Class?

When you give your class representative an idea, she or he will:

- Note it down
- Take it to the next council meeting
- Tell you what is happening to your idea within two weeks

The School Council will try to make your idea happen by getting:

- Permission
- Support
- Money
- Time
- If they can't, they will tell you why not
- If they can, they will want your class to help make your idea happen

What will Staff do for the School Council?

- Make sure meetings happen when they are supposed to
- Support students to run meetings
- The Senior Leadership Team will answer all the School Council's ideas within two weeks

School Student Council Organisation

- Class Council officials should be nominated and then voted in by their classmates – they should not be chosen by their teachers
- Elections should be held twice a year at the beginning of the school year and after Christmas

- The Chair should lead the meetings with the Teacher (representing school) coaching and modelling if necessary.
- Throughout the week, students will note any issues, concerns, worries or ideas etc and pass them to their Class Council representative that they wish to discuss at the Class Council meeting
- At the meeting, the Chair will raise the first item on the agenda and invite people who wrote it to explain their point of view
- The Chair then invites the rest of the class to discuss the matter and reach some sort of resolution
- The Secretary then makes a note of what has been decided in the minutes
- If the resolution is something that the class feels should be shared with School Council to allow wider discussion, then a note will be made in the minutes to make this clear
- Repeat above for other agenda items
- Class Council members should bring the minute book to School Council and raise any relevant issues for wider discussion and whole school resolution

Examples of Topics for Discussion and Resolution

- Re-cycling proposal (linked to Eco committee)
- Additional equipment for the playground
- Proposal for additional Extra Curricular club
- Suggestions for improving school lunches
- Developing the garden area