

# CONSTITUTION OF ST BRENDAN'S COLLEGE STUDENTS COUNCIL

## 1. PREAMBLE

The definition of a Student Council as set out under the terms of the Education Act 1998 is:

A Student Council is a representative structure for students only, through which they can become involved in the affairs of the school, working in partnership with school management staff and parents for the benefit of the school and its students.

The main functions of the Student Council may be involved might include;

- Representing the views of the student body to the school management
- Promoting good communications with the school
- Supporting the educational development and progress of students
- Assisting with induction and/or mentoring of new students
- Contributing to the development of school policy
- Assisting in school sporting and cultural activities
- Assisting with or organising fund-raising events for charity

## 2. COMPOSITION

- a The council will have a maximum of 15 members
- b The membership of the Council will comprise: 4 from 6<sup>th</sup> year; 3 each from 5<sup>th</sup>, TY and 3<sup>rd</sup> year and 2 from 2<sup>nd</sup> year.
- c 2 members from first year will be elected to join during each school year but will not be entitled to vote.
- d The term of office for the Council will be one academic year.

## 3. LIASION OFFICER

- a The principal will appoint 1 teacher as a Liaison Officer.
- b The Liaison Officer will oversee the nomination and election procedure.
- c The Liaison Officer must attend meetings as an observer
- d The Liaison Officer will act as a link between the Student Council, the staff and Board of Management.

#### 4 NOMINATIONS

- a A student candidate for election to the council must be nominated by at least 3 other students in his own year and one teacher.
- b A full list of nominations will be presented to the Principal for approval.
- c In exceptional circumstances the Principal, at his absolute discretion, may refuse to accept a student's nomination.
- d Each nominee must sign a Code of Conduct before his nomination is accepted by the Liaison Officer.

#### 5 ELECTIONS

- a Elections will be held before the end of October each year.
- b The elections will be conducted in the same manner as national elections; ie, PR with a single transferable vote
- c Ballot papers will be retained by the Liaison Officer until the end of each academic year. In the event of the resignation or removal of a member, the student with the next highest number of votes will replace him.

#### 6 MEETINGS

- a. At it's inaugural meeting the Student Council will elect, under the guidance of the Liaison Officer, officers; chair, vice-chair, secretary, recording secretary, public relations officer
- b. The Student Council will adopt standing orders at their first Meeting.
- b All council members are expected to attend all meetings.
- c All meetings must be minuted.
- d 9 members must be present for a valid vote to be taken.
- e Meetings will take place at lunchtime one day per week.
- f The Students Council may not discuss school management or any school policies once they have been adopted by the BOM
- g The Students Council may not discuss any issue relating to any individual student or teacher.
- h At the end of each term of office the Council will make a final report to the Board of Management, the Principal and the Liaison Officer.

## 7 REMOVAL PROCEDURES

Any of the reasons below will result in a member's removal from the SC;

- Non-attendance at 3 meetings without a valid reason
- Breach of the SC Code of Conduct
- Two suspensions from school
- Resignation
- A simple majority vote by the SC

Removal from the student Council may be appealed to the Board of management.

## 8 DISSOLUTION

In exceptional circumstances the Board of Management, at its absolute discretion, may dissolve the Student Council.