

ST KIERAN'S COLLEGE

Kilkenny



Student Council

Student Council Constitution

The aim of the Student Council is to work in partnership with the Board of Management, Staff and Parents for the benefit of the whole school community. The Student Council seeks to build a relationship based on mutual respect and trust with all in the school. It supports the Staff, Management and Parents in their efforts to create and maintain an environment conducive to educational and personal development. As part of that process, the Student Council seeks to provide a line of communication between students, management, staff and parents, representing the views of the student body on matters of concern to them. We will consult regularly with the students in the school. We aim to involve as many students as is possible in the activities of the Council.

The Student Council is a body made up of students, whose duty is as elected representatives to speak for the students. Mr Joe Kavanagh will liaise with the Council in the role to advisor and supervisor. Mr Liam Smith will be the point of contact with management. They are to be present at each meeting if they cannot for any reason attend they may appoint a substitute. The liaison teacher can have input into the meeting but does not have a vote.

The Council must select officers to cover certain areas of the Councils work. Sixth Years will undertake these different responsibilities within the group. If Sixth Years are unavailable, Fifth Years will assume the running of the Council. These offices are as follows:

1. Chairman
2. Deputy Chairman
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer
5. P.R.O.

It is the responsibility of the Chairman to call the meetings to order as he is the head of the Council. It is the job of the Deputy Chairman to assist the Chairman and to take his place if he is not present at any meeting. It is the job of the Secretary to take the minutes and write up the agenda with the Chairman for the next meeting. The Treasurer is in charge of the group's finances. It is his job to keep up-to-date finances. At the end of each school year he must present a full financial report. The P.R.O. is responsible for keeping the notice board up-to-date and keeps the student body informed on the various goings on of the council. All of the above are basic descriptions of duties and most roles may entail more work.

The aforementioned P.R.O. officer play a vital role within the Council. It is there responsibility to raise the profile of the Council and to showcase its proposals. They are responsible for organising and co-ordinating events run by the Council within the school.

Meetings are to take place during Lunch fortnightly in Hall 10 or another appropriate venue. Not attending three meetings will result in an automatic dismissal from the Council. This is of course unless a valid reason for being absent is presented to the chairman or liaison teacher within a week of the meeting in question. It is part of each member's duty to attend every meeting where possible.

Minutes are to be taken by the secretary during every meeting and signed off on by the chairman and the secretary at the start of the next meeting. A notice of a regular meeting should be posted on the notice board a week in advance of the meeting taking place. Any member can make an addition to the agenda by informing the Chairman or Secretary of an addition

A term of office is to last from May to May every year. If a member feels an officer or a member is unfit for their role they may put forward a vote of no confidence in them. This will result in an outright removal from the role or Council. For the vote to take place though a valid reason must be presented, if

deemed valid by the liaison teacher and/or Deputy Principal, voting will then take place. The affected parties have the right to appeal any decision. If a member or officer leaves during a term of office he is to be replaced accordingly, this will mean that the year in question will have to vote again on their representatives. For the vote to be passed it must be passed by 2/3 majority. For any normal vote in the Council the vote is to go on a majority rules basis as in any vote. If a vote is tied the Chairman has the deciding vote. All votes are to be conducted in a secret ballot.

At the end of each year the secretary is to present an end of year report, assessing the various highs and lows throughout the year. This is to entail the notable achievements of the council over the school year. At the end of the year there is a special meeting in which the chairman is to make an address to the council and the secretary and treasurer are to deliver their reports.

In regard to finances, all funds are to be distributed only by the treasurer with permission of the chairman and the liaison teacher. Funds can be raised by any means acceptable as long as it is given permission of the Principal and the liaison teacher. Funds raised by the council are only to be spent for the good of the students or for expenses related to the council's work.

Any member can change the constitution, but they must first make a full written submission to the Council on the amendment and show clearly the array they wish to change. This must be then voted upon after it has been presented to the Council. For this particular vote allow for just four members to be absent. For the vote to be passed and the constitution amended it must pass by a 2/3 majority. For this constitution to be passed valid it must be firstly and most importantly passed by 2/3's and signed by all members of the Council and ratified by the Board of Management. The Board of Management of St Kieran's College have the right to dissolve the Student Council at any time.

Elections for the student council will be held in May of every year. Two representatives will be chosen from each year. Members from all years will be chosen on a 'first past the post basis'. The student representatives to each year group will convey notices. Motions to remove elected representatives requires a 10/4 majority with all sides entitled to make representations on their own behalf. Reasons for removal may be a lack of commitment, failure to attend meetings or similar. A week's notice will be given for all sides to respond before a vote is taken. By-election will fill vacancies that may occur during the life of the Council. The First Year representatives will be elected after the Christmas break in order to give them an opportunity to determine who would best suit this role. Parents will be encouraged to make presentations to the Council.