

RAVENS COTE JUNIOR SCHOOL

School Council, Pupil voice and Fundraising Policy

2026- 2027



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July 2026		July 2027	
Signed	A Wells Headteacher	Signed	E Gibson Chair of Governors



RAVENSCOTE JUNIOR SCHOOL School Council and Pupil Voice

Context – Pupil Voice

At Ravenscote Junior School, we believe that pupils should have a meaningful voice in the life of the school. The School Council provides a structured and representative way for pupils to share views, contribute ideas and influence decisions that affect their learning, wellbeing and wider school experience. It reflects the school's commitment to respecting children as active participants in school life and to developing citizenship, responsibility and leadership.

Pupil voice is an important part of an inclusive school culture. Through the School Council, pupils are encouraged to express opinions, listen to others, discuss issues respectfully and work collaboratively to identify solutions. This supports the development of communication skills, confidence, empathy and mutual respect. It also enables leaders and staff to gain valuable insight into pupils' experiences, helping the school to make informed improvements.

The School Council is not a tokenistic body. It is intended to be a purposeful forum where pupils can raise matters of interest and concern, contribute to school improvement, and take part in projects that have a positive impact on the whole school community. The Council should reflect the diversity of the school population and operate in a way that is fair, transparent and accessible to all pupils.

Statutory Guidance

There is no single statutory requirement in England for every primary school to have a School Council; however, several areas of legislation and guidance support the principles underpinning pupil voice, participation and inclusion.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, particularly Article 12, states that children have the right to express their views freely in all matters affecting them, with those views given due weight in accordance with age and maturity. This is a key principle informing pupil participation in schools.

The Education Act 2002 places duties on schools to promote the wellbeing of pupils and to provide a broad and balanced educational experience. A School Council contributes to this by supporting personal development, social development and the preparation of pupils for life in modern Britain.

The Equality Act 2010 is also relevant. Schools must have due regard to eliminating discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations between people with protected characteristics. School Council arrangements should therefore be inclusive and



should not disadvantage any pupil on the basis of disability, sex, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy or maternity, or age where relevant.

The Department for Education's guidance on governance, safeguarding and pupil wellbeing emphasises the importance of listening to pupils, responding to concerns and creating a culture in which pupils feel safe, respected and valued. In addition, the Prevent duty and safeguarding expectations require schools to ensure that pupil voice activities are managed in a safe, age-appropriate and supervised manner.

School Council activity should also align with the principles of the Keeping Children Safe in Education statutory guidance, ensuring that pupils are supported to speak openly while remaining within appropriate boundaries for confidentiality, safeguarding and staff oversight.

What We Do and How We Implement It at Ravenscote Junior School

At Ravenscote Junior School, the School Council is established to ensure that pupils have a regular and structured opportunity to contribute to school development. Each class elects representatives through a fair and age-appropriate democratic process. Elections are conducted transparently and give all pupils the opportunity to understand the responsibilities of representation.

School Council representatives are expected to listen to the views of their classmates, communicate those views accurately and contribute positively to discussions. They act as a link between pupils and staff, sharing ideas, feedback and concerns from the wider school community. Representatives are supported by staff to understand their role and to carry out their responsibilities effectively.

The School Council meets regularly, with meetings scheduled at appropriate intervals throughout the academic year. Meetings are led by a designated member of staff, and pupils are encouraged to take an active role in setting agendas, discussing priorities and reviewing actions. Where possible, minutes or key action points are recorded in a child-friendly format so that outcomes are clear and follow-up can be monitored.

The Council's work may include a range of topics, such as improvements to learning environments, playtimes, reading culture, charitable activities, environmental initiatives, healthy lifestyles, behaviour expectations and celebration of achievement. Pupils may also be consulted on wider school issues through surveys, class discussions, suggestion boxes or year-group forums, with representatives bringing feedback into Council meetings.

Implementation of the School Council is designed to be purposeful and impactful. Actions agreed by the Council are shared with senior leaders where appropriate and considered as part of school improvement processes. Staff may provide feedback on which suggestions can be implemented immediately, which require further exploration and which may not be possible at



that time, along with clear reasons. This ensures that pupils understand the realities of decision-making and the importance of constructive participation.

The Council is also used to develop leadership and teamwork. Pupils may be involved in assemblies, presentations, fundraising events, community projects or peer-awareness campaigns. These opportunities strengthen pupils' confidence and help them to recognise that their contributions can make a difference.

Adults supporting the School Council have a responsibility to facilitate rather than dominate discussions. Their role is to guide, encourage and ensure that meetings remain focused, respectful and productive. Pupils should be given genuine opportunities to lead discussions, present ideas and review progress with appropriate support.

The school will evaluate the effectiveness of the School Council through regular review of participation, outcomes and impact. This may include consideration of whether pupils feel listened to, whether actions are followed through, and whether the Council reflects the views of the wider pupil body. The Council should be responsive and adaptive, ensuring that it remains relevant to pupils' needs and to the strategic priorities of the school.

Equality

Ravenscote Junior School is committed to ensuring that School Council participation is fully inclusive and accessible to all pupils. Equality is central to the way the Council is selected, organised and supported. All pupils should have the opportunity to stand for election, vote, contribute ideas and have their voice heard, irrespective of background, ability or personal circumstance.

Reasonable adjustments will be made where necessary to enable pupils with additional needs or disabilities to participate fully. This may include adapted communication methods, visual prompts, smaller group discussions, adult support or alternative ways of sharing views. Staff will consider barriers to participation and take proactive steps to remove them.

The School Council should represent the diversity of the school community. This means ensuring that participation is not dominated by a narrow group of pupils and that voices from different year groups, abilities, cultures and experiences are valued. Staff should promote respectful dialogue and challenge any behaviour or language that excludes, stereotypes or marginalises others.

All School Council activities must be conducted in a manner that promotes dignity, fairness and respect. Pupils are expected to listen to differing viewpoints and work collaboratively across differences. This supports the school's wider commitment to inclusion, British values and the development of a cohesive community.



The School Council policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure that it continues to reflect best practice, remains accessible to all pupils and supports the school's duties under equality and safeguarding legislation.

