



Learner's Voice Policy

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| DATE CREATED | May 2021 Ratified by Governors – July 2021 | DATE OF NEXT REVIEW | August 2024 Reviewed June 2023 |
| POLICY OWNER(S) | Head teacher and Head of Children's Home | | |
| DESIGNATION | School and Children's Home | | |

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| Purpose of policy | The aim of this policy is to set out the School and Children's Home strategy to promote and enable learner voice, through every step of their journey, including formal and extended (waking day) curriculum and living arrangements. |
| Intended audience | All school and children's home staff |
| Links to other policies | |

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Learner Voice

St Elizabeth's provides care for individuals with learning disabilities and other complex medical needs, often caused or complicated by severe epilepsy and/or autism.

Mission: Living Life to the Full

Rooted in Christian, gospel values, St Elizabeth's exists to offer vulnerable people individually designed education, care and support services that maximise their opportunities to "live life to the full".

The vision for the Learner Voice is of a culture where every child and young person's views, feedback, feelings and contribution is an enabler to ensure the highest standards of education, care and specialist support embedded in the Mission, Vision and Values of the organisation

Aim

The aim of this policy is to set out the School and Children's Home strategy to promote and enable learner voice, through every step of their journey, including formal and extended (waking day) curriculum and living arrangements.

The learner voice will include, but is not limited to the following forums:

- The Student Council
- Home/house meetings
- Tutorials and Key worker sessions
- Satisfaction surveys
- Grumbles (complaints/areas of dissatisfaction)
- Compliments and comments
- Parent/carer satisfaction

All learners will be encouraged to engage in a variety of methods to communicate their views, preferences and choices to help inform continuous improvement.

Council members may include:

- Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Representatives from each children's home
- Representative from day provision

Representative's roles are to seek the voice(s) of their peers in their home setting and day

students.

Supporting adults including team members from education, care and therapy will attend to ensure all strategies and resources are in place so that every child and young person, irrespective of their individual profile/need is able to participate and contribute fully.

Benefits:

For every child and young person

- Improve participation, retention, achievement and progression
- Better feedback on individual experience informing quality improvement
- Students are empowered, more self-confident and motivated
- Appreciation and improved understanding of the British value of democracy
- The opportunity to become directly involved in social action for the benefit of others
- Services and facilities are improved to better meet the needs of all students
- Identification and sharing of good practice
- Promotion of an environment of mutual respect
- Greater accountability for the School, Children's Homes and School Governors and Health & Care Quality Committee in taking action to address and meet expectations
- Development of key skills for life and preparation for adulthood
- Seeking solutions to problem solve and celebrating successes
- Enhancing their understanding of the Catholic ethos of the organisation and the development of spirituality.

For the School and Children's Homes

- Education, Care and specialist teams are accountable and take action to continuously improve every child and young person's experience and life at St. Elizabeth's

St Elizabeth's School and Children's Homes are committed to involving the children and young people in every aspect of decision making and the Student Council will enable them to have the freedom to share their views and of others that they are representing.

Evolving the Council:

To ensure learner voice is developed the arrangements for the current Learner Council will evolve. This will progress as follows:

The School and Children's Homes will support everyone to undertake a democratic election for future council members every September and commencing from September 2021. This will

provide opportunity for every child/young person to consider whether they would like to represent their peers, as residents or day learners. Staff in both settings will encourage and empower each young person to understand the purpose of the council and the benefits of being a member. Students who are interested will be supported to canvas their peers so a democratic election can take place. Every student will be encouraged to participate in the election process and vote for their preferred candidate. The election will determine which children and young people have been democratically elected.

The first full council meeting of new members will explore and determine a Chair and other members as appropriate.

The council once established will set the frequency and agenda's for future meetings. Staff will support this process fully throughout the year.

Representatives from the Council will be invited to attend Governing Body and Care Quality meetings to share their views and work of the council.

Functions of the council:

- 1) To hold leaders and managers to account.
- 2) To represent all children and young people
- 3) To act as ambassadors for St Elizabeth's School and Children's homes at a variety of internal and external events such as open days and external visits
- 4) To act as a representative for their peer group
- 5) To feedback any concerns, worries and/or positive experiences
- 6) To ensure Safeguarding is at the heart of life at St. Elizabeth's.
- 7) To inform the development of the school and waking day curriculum.
- 8) To actively engage in fundraising and raise awareness.
- 9) Promote the Catholic ethos and spirituality of St. Elizabeth's, empowering an inclusive and supportive place to live and learn.

Pastoral

Children's homes meetings take place weekly or fortnightly dependent on the house. Key worker sessions are weekly and tutorials and Information, Advice and Careers guidance sessions are planned regularly. Children are encouraged to engage and can freely communicate with staff one a one to one bases or in a class group discussion.

Recording and monitoring

- Minutes of the council are shared across the School and Children's Homes, are accessible and meaningful so that every child and young person is able to understand

and contribute to achieving the goals and priorities of the Learner Voice strategy.

- You Said/ We did – that there is clear evidence of how Leaders and Managers are held to account, and ensuring this is accessible for all.
- Tutorials and Key Worker sessions demonstrate the impact and outcomes of frequent supportive opportunities for each young person.
- Development of the curriculum in school and wider waking day curriculum is informed by children and young people.
- Development of in home living activities will be informed by children and young people

Areas of development are actioned in a timely manner and make a difference to every child and young person's experience and life.