



Pupil Voice Policy

Rookwood School

September 2025

Date of adoption of this policy	September 2025
Date of last review of this policy	September 2025
Date for next review of this policy	September 2028
Policy owner	Head of Senior and Head of Prep
Proprietor	Amit Mehta (ILG)

1. Definition

The term 'pupil voice' refers to ways of listening to the views of pupils and/or involving them in decision making. At Rookwood we ensure that pupils opinions and perspectives are actively listened to and implemented to help shape their educational experience.

In the UK, promoting pupil voice is aligned with fostering democratic participation, inclusivity, and student wellbeing.

2. Scope and application

This policy applies to all pupils attending Rookwood School from Reception through to Upper 6th.

Staff are aware of the policy and should look for opportunities within their role to promote pupil voice.

3. Regulatory framework

This policy has been prepared to meet the school's responsibilities under:

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC):

Article 12 states that children have the right to express their views in matters affecting them, with their opinions given due weight.

Education Act 2002:

Encourages schools to promote the wellbeing of pupils, which includes listening to their perspectives.

Children and Families Act 2014:

Requires schools to consider children's views when supporting special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

4. Publication and availability

This policy is published on the school website. This policy is available in hard copy on request.

4.1 A copy of the policy is available for inspection from the school office during the school day.

4.2 This policy can be made available in large print or other accessible format if required.

4.3 A summary of the policy can be found on the School Council notice board

5. Responsibility statement and allocation of tasks

Task	Allocated to	When / frequency of review
Oversee opportunities for meetings Facilitate meetings and structure Support pupils' meetings and initiatives	Head of Senior Head of Prep	September 2028 3 years

6. Rationale

Rookwood implements pupil voice through various channels, some examples of which are:

- School councils: Student bodies, where pupils represent their peers and discuss school improvements.
- Surveys and feedback mechanisms: Regularly seeking pupils' opinions on teaching, learning, and school life.
- Peer mentoring and leadership roles: Offering opportunities for pupils to influence school culture and support their peers.

Active participants in their own learning:

That their opinions should be heard and valued both in school and the wider community. We actively seek ways to engage pupils and encourage them to make a contribution to the whole community.

7. Implementation

At Rookwood we have various ways in which pupils can share their ideas and opinions. These are considered and discussed and where possible actioned.

Rookwood's approach to developing pupil voice:

- School Council: Selected bodies where pupils represent their peers and discuss school improvements
- Pupil-led enterprises
- Food council
- Suggestion boxes
- Pupil assessment evaluating their targets and progress
- Democratic process for selecting school charities
- School counsellor
- The Hub and The Nest
- Careers – Interviews – future goals
- Young Leader opportunities
- Prefects – Responsibility in the school

Developing pupil voice in the curriculum

Embedded into the curriculum are teaching and learning opportunities where pupils are asked to consider and share their own opinions.

They have opportunities to plan their own activities within a topic remit and to share their work with others in a range of different ways. They are asked to reflect on their own learning and identifying their future goals in collaboration with teachers and support staff. They also can independently organise activities, clubs and tasks including charity events.

School Council

The school council promotes democracy, leadership and mutual responsibility throughout the school. Class representatives meet half-termly. The process of school council provides:

- A positive forum for pupil voice
- A structured opportunity for pupil leadership dialogue
- Pupils are given an insight into democracy
- Forum for pupils to instigate change in respect to school life: school meals, social areas, outdoor play
- A feeling of self-worth and mutual respect for pupils

A whole school approach

Staff understand the importance in involving pupils in all aspects of their education and learning.

Pupil views are valued and time is always given to seeking out and listening to the views of individuals and taking the views into consideration in any decision making.

Co-curricular clubs are run as a result of pupils' requests.

Charity events and fundraisers for the school and local charities are planned in collaboration with pupils, thus giving them ownership and pride in what they achieve.

Challenges

While pupil voice is widely encouraged, it must be implemented meaningfully, avoiding tokenism. There must be a balance respecting pupils' input with making professional decisions in their best interests.

Version Control

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