

# Pupil Parliament Policy

<b>Version</b>	1	2			
<b>Date</b>	Feb 2025	Feb 2026			
<b>Written / reviewed by</b>	Mrs Houseman	Mrs Houseman			
<b>Date of next review</b>	Feb 2026	Feb 2027			

**This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people/vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.**

## Introduction

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for the Pupil Parliament at Branwood Preparatory School. The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all members of staff at Branwood Preparatory School.

At Branwood, we believe children's voices should shape our school. Pupil Parliament provides a structured, democratic forum where pupils discuss ideas, identify priorities, and work with staff to improve learning, wellbeing, environment and community.

## Definition

A Pupil Parliament is an elected body of pupils whose purpose is to represent their peers and be a forum for active and constructive pupil input into the life of the school. The Importance of School Councils Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) states that children and young people should have a say in decisions that affect their lives. A Pupil Parliament can provide a meaningful way in which pupils can voice their opinions and have their views taken into account in decisions which impact upon them.

## Aims and Purpose

Branwood's Pupil Parliament aims to:

- Provide an opportunity for pupils to make a positive contribution to the school environment and ethos.
- Develop and promote children's self-confidence, social skills and sense of responsibility.
- Provide an opportunity for pupils to contribute to society and be an active citizen.
- Allow children to have a 'voice' and to share their opinions and ideas with others.
- Allow children to become more responsible and actively involved in the decision – making process of the school.
- Develop important life skills.

## Structure

- Class Representatives: Each class (F1–F6) elects representatives annually.
- Parliament Cabinet (Form 6):
  - Prime Minister (chair)
  - Deputy Prime Minister (vice chair)
  - Secretaries

Pupil Parliament is an inclusive organisation, and all pupils are eligible to canvas for a place regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, religion and disability. At the start of the academic year, pupils are asked to prepare and deliver a presentation to their class stating why they should be chosen. Pupils are voted for and elected by their peers.

## Organisation and management of Pupil Parliament

Pupil Parliament badges will be given out in assembly and must always be worn by Pupil Parliament Representatives in school.

Pupil Parliament meetings are held weekly. The meetings are held by the Pupil Parliament Coordinators, Mrs Houseman and Mrs Christensen, together with the Pupil Parliament representatives. Meetings will be led by the Pupil Parliament representatives and at each meeting

there will be one main issue on the agenda, as well as opportunities for all Pupil Parliament Representatives to discuss other ideas they have, and any ideas raised by the pupils in their class.

#### Communication

Pupil Parliament Representatives record notes and ideas in their journals and will feedback to the rest of their class on what they have discussed or are planning/implementing. They will in turn record notes from class discussions and bring these to share with the group at the next meeting. Representatives will also work together to produce termly reports for SLT. Representatives and Coordinators will also run any new ideas or plans by the Headteacher

#### SEND/Inclusion

Every pupil matters. It is believed that every pupil must be given an opportunity to lead in one way or the other, irrespective of their language, ethnic background, education or religious inclinations. Reasonable adjustments will be made.

#### Review

This policy is to be reviewed annually by the Pupil Parliament Coordinator.