

Pupil Voice Policy



Approved by: Penny Harris (Director) Jane Cox (Director) **Date:** 1st September 2025

Last reviewed on: 1st September 2024

Next review due by: 1st September 2026

All policies are generated and reviewed with an awareness of equality and diversity in relation to pupils, staff and visitors. All policies are generated and reviewed placing safeguarding and wellbeing at the heart of all that we do.

1. Guidance

Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC); The United Kingdom Government is a signatory to Article 12 of the UNCRC; This states that national governments shall:

'assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.'

The Children and Families Act (2014) and the SEND Code of Practice (2015) both emphasise the need for the views of pupils to be more fully integrated into decision making around their education.

2. Aims

Our school recognises that greater involvement and engagement by pupils in their own learning and in the life of their school communities not only ensures that children and young people's internationally recognised rights are respected but also supports other important aspects of their physical, emotional, social and educational development.

Our school will:

- Provide regular opportunities and encourage pupils to articulate their own views at school
- Provide regular opportunities and encourage pupils to participate in the wider life of the school community
- Provide regular opportunities and encourage pupils to make suggestions in relation to school improvement

- Provide regular opportunities and encourage pupils to be involved in decision making relating to their own learning at school
- Provide pupils with daily access to staff members, including senior staff and the head teacher, whom they feel able to talk to about any issues or concerns
- Provide pupils with anonymous ways for their voice to be heard

3. Keyworkers and the role of advocate

A keyworker can act as the pupil's advocate and therefore is the person who can encourage a pupil to have a voice within the school and contribute to the wider school community. A keyworker will support inclusion and monitor how the needs of the pupil are being met at school. Keyworkers meet regularly with their assigned pupils to talk about the issues that affect them, find solutions and identify support. Keyworkers also have a role in celebrating and championing pupils' progress, effort and achievement.

4. Pupil involvement in their own Learning

Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the decision making process in relation to their learning throughout their time at the school.

Opportunities for pupils to be involved in decision making include:

- Pupil consultation in relation to target setting and the design of their own personal learning plan
- Pupil consultation of school development plan aims and activities
- Pupils consultation during school policy reviews
- Pupil consultation about physical school improvement work and decoration
- Pupil involvement in the selection processes when recruiting new school staff
- Pupil councils
- Pupil opportunities for peer support
- Pupil consultation about school reward scheme

5. Review

In order to ensure that this policy is relevant, if you have any comments please email directors@ontrackededucation.com