Mission statement: Inspiring learning, developing character, building futures.

Student support policies and procedures

Student voice policy

Aim:
- To strengthen teaching and learning and responsiveness to individual need;
- To strengthen student participation and representation;
- To create a culture of student voice and democracy.

Policy authorisation:	Senior Leadership Team (SLT)
Date of policy update:	January 2025
Date of policy review:	January 2028
Policy author	Assistant Principal - Student Support

Contents

1. Aims

We want to make teaching and learning, and the whole student experience, better and make sure we listen to what students need.

We want more students to get involved and have a say. We want to create a college culture where students' voice and democracy are key.

Benefits for students: get more influence over their learning and wellbeing, boost their confidence and job skills, get chances to lead in the community, and practice democracy.

Benefits for the college: We make better decisions, everyone feels more connected, and students stick around, achieve, and move on successfully.

Our approach is guided by the following five principles:

- **Co-production:** Students are our partners in shaping the college experience right from the start.
- **Inclusion:** We want all students to have an opportunity to have their voice heard.
- **Transparency:** We promise to acknowledge student feedback, we will always listen to all suggestions. We will then explain the outcome, which may be an action taken or a clear reason for why a requested change cannot be put in place.
- **Empowerment:** We'll help students gain confidence and leadership skills by getting involved.
- **Impact:** Student feedback should lead to real changes that improve college life.

2. Scope and coproduction

This policy applies to all students enrolled at the college.

This document was developed as a co-produced first draft, reflecting our commitment to shaping and finalising it with full student input. We then gathered feedback and suggested changes from students, including what preferred practice would look like, through:

- Discussion at the Student Union to get their input and suggestions.
- Focus groups, run through Progress Mentors (PMs), with students on a range of programmes.

The second draft was then created for review by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

3. Student voice framework - how can students get involved?

3.1 Student Advisers

Two Student Advisers sit on the college's Local Governing Board. They bring a student's perspective to the governing body, helping to set the college's vision and hold senior leaders to account.

3.2 Student Union (SU)

The SU consists of elected student representatives who work for the student community to focus on big topics such as equality, mental health, sustainability, fundraising, and community work.

The Student Union is supported by a designated member of staff to become active representatives who contribute positively to the college and the wider community.

3.3 Progress Mentor Group Representatives (PM Reps)

Every student within college is assigned to a Progress Mentor cohort. Each PM cohort elects a rep to meet with college leaders at least once per term to discuss students' college experience.

Minutes from these meetings are captured and any actions are reported back to students via Progress Mentors.

3.4 Equality Groups

There is student representation on the Strategic Equality Committee as well as on steering groups focusing on specific student needs such as LGBTQ+, students with SEND (special educational needs and/or disabilities), the college environment and student health/wellbeing.

3.5 Staff recruitment and quality assurance

Students participate in student-facing staff recruitment via micro-teach feedback and involvement in other relevant selection day activities.

3.6 Surveys and suggestion boxes

Student voice is gathered through regular surveys throughout their time at college. There are:
- Two cross-college surveys per year, exploring satisfaction with facilities, support and opportunities
- Two Student Perception of Course (SPOC) surveys that explore satisfaction with teaching, learning and assessment on courses.
- Ad-hoc surveys will be circulated which will focus on specific themes.

Students also have the opportunity to provide feedback via a suggestion box in the Foyer and an online suggestion box.

3.7 Focus groups

Students will have the opportunity to provide views and suggestions to staff through themed focus groups for deeper exploration of key issues such as teaching and learning, wellbeing, safeguarding, pastoral support etc.

3.8 Feedback (closing the loop)

"You Said, We Did" termly updates will be shared through PM sessions.

4. Monitoring and evaluation

The Assistant Principal (Student Support) will produce an annual Student Voice Report, with key achievements, challenges, and next steps.

The full Student Voice policy is reviewed every three years, co-produced with students.