

Meldreth Primary's
School Council
HANDBOOK



Our School. Our Voice

Why we have a school council...

It used to be thought that ALL decisions about children should be made by grown-ups because they were older and had experience, training and qualifications....

...But grown-ups didn't always make very good decisions, (and they hardly ever asked the children what they wanted).

So all the countries of the world got together and agreed that children must be given rights, (and they also agreed, that sometimes, children's ideas are better than grown-up ideas!)

The governments of the world decided that grown-ups must listen to children and they created the 'United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.'



UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 12

Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account.

Article 13

Children have the right to get and to share information as long as the information is not damaging to them or to others.

Article 15

Children have the right to meet together and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.



UNICEF Find out more about the UN Convention

Our Mission Statement



* A **mission statement** sums up the purpose of a group and is the goal the group sets itself.
Agree your Student Council Mission Statement and write it here

What is a School Councillor?

A Representative

Each school councillor speaks for the children in their class. There are two school councillors for every class in the school (and around 30 students in each class)



A Spokesperson

With more than 200 children in the school it is difficult for the teachers to find out what they all think and what their ideas are for making school better for everyone. A school councillor explains their class ideas to the teachers.

A Leader

Your classmates will also look to you to help them make their idea (if it is accepted by the school council) a reality.

What does a School Councillor do?

Remember to ask for 10 minutes after each meeting to talk to your class after a meeting.



Promotes the School council

Takes the views of their class to meetings

Goes to meetings and joins in the discussions

Lets their class know what was discussed at the meeting

Helps organise School

Student Councillor's ROCK® (Graphite)

What is inside a School Councillor?

Commitment

Committed to working hard for their classmates and **representing their class** and their school to the best of their ability

Creativity

Having great ideas about *how* improvements might be made

Curiosity

Wanting to find out what goes on in their school and **looking** for ways to improve things

Consideration

Caring and respectful towards their classmates and fellow councillors (even when they don't agree with them...)

Confidence

Willing to **speak up** about their ideas and the ideas of their classmates

Communication

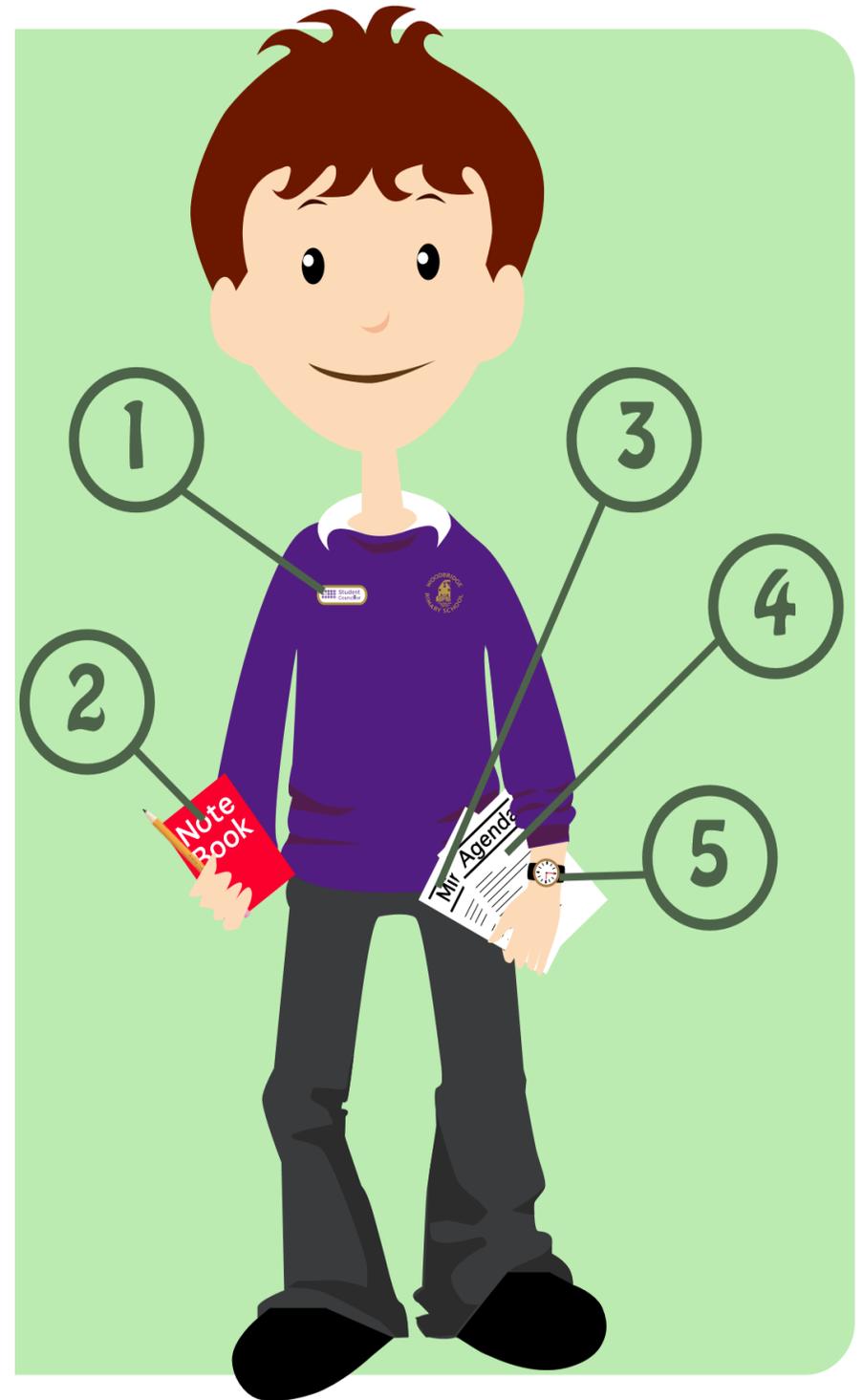
Listening to the ideas and concerns of others and **understanding** and then **talking** to students and staff about them.



What does a School Councillor look like?

Just like you! But there are a few extra things a student councillor has...

1. A Student Councillor **badge** (that they wear with pride at all times)
2. A **notebook** and **pencil** (to take notes at meetings and to write down any ideas they or their classmates have)
3. The **minutes** of the last meeting (which they read for action points)
4. The **agenda** for the next meeting (so they can think about what they want to say)
5. A **watch** (so they can make sure they get to the meetings on time)



School Councillor Meetings

Meetings & Communication

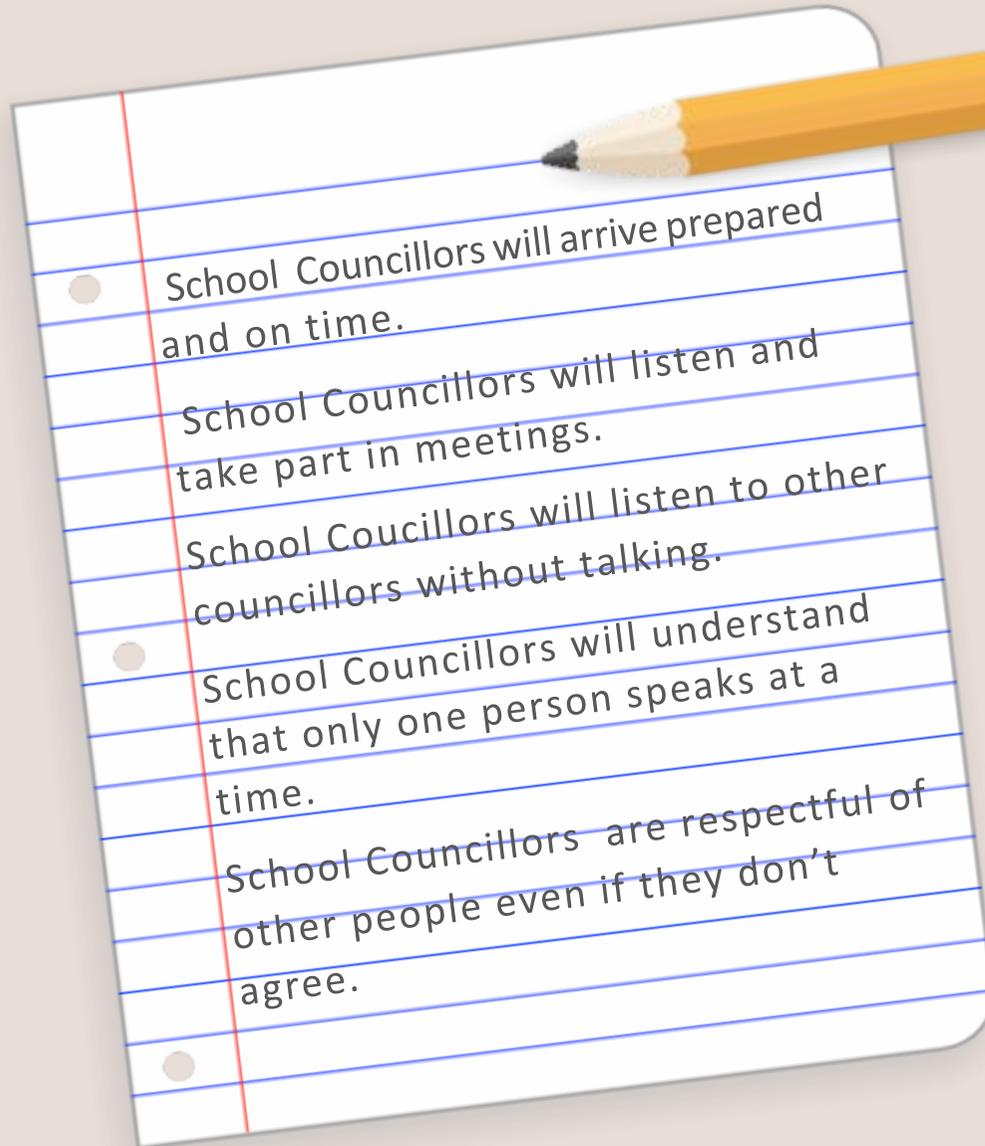
To be successful meetings need...

1. Rules
2. An agenda
3. Minutes taken
4. A Chairperson
5. A report back process
6. Action planning



When a group of people need to make a decision, they will meet to discuss it and decide what to do. Student Council meetings usually take place every two weeks and last for 30 minutes. Members of the Student Council might have different ideas and opinions, so meetings have rules.

Meeting rules



A School Council is a team and at meetings they work together

The School Council must focus on the issue and be respectful and encourage each other to speak.

It is useful to have rules at meetings and to make sure everyone knows what they are.