

## School Council

### Intent

At Harvills Hawthorn Primary School, our School Council aims to provide a safe, happy and fair learning environment. We take an active role in organising school events and provide opportunities for pupil voice. Pupils are given the opportunity to express their views and make positive contributions towards the school. We work with other communities to allow new experiences, healthy lifestyles and a broader curriculum to be achieved. Through our School Council meetings, we teach the children skills they need to be able to make decisions which impact upon our school.

### Implementation

As a school, we value our School Councillors as their voice and ideas are integral to making our school the inspiring, joyful and enthusiastic place it is. The election of our School Councillors is held annually at the start of each academic year. Every child in our school is given the opportunity to create a manifesto in which they present to staff and pupils. We operate democratic procedures when electing our school councillors. From this, children then vote democratically for who they feel will suit the roles of a School Councillor. Each class votes for their own class councillor who represents them at the weekly meetings. Once these children have been elected, we then vote for the other roles within the council. These roles include chair, vice chair and secretary. School Council meetings are held weekly where the council's secretary takes minutes. These minutes are then fed back to everyone within the school. During these meetings projects, ideas and opinions are shared and discussed. At Harvills Hawthorn, we use pupil voice boxes as a way of communicating everyone's ideas and opinions. During our meetings, these boxes are emptied and every suggestion from the pupil voice box is listened to and discussed. These suggestions then form our projects or next steps.

### Impact

Our children will have the knowledge and skills to be able to make appropriate decisions and express their opinions respectfully. The children experience a democratic vote and show mutual respect and tolerance through this. It will provide a meaningful way in which pupils can voice their opinions and have their views taken into account in decisions which impact upon them.

