



# Student Council

*What's it all about?*



# WHY?



A Student Council is a structure through which ***all students can have their say***. This means that every student has the right to take part in electing their representatives.



# EVERYONE HAVING A SAY!

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 20 November 1989.

## ARTICLE 12 (respect for the views of the child)

Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously. This right applies at all times.

**UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**  
IN CHILD-FRIENDLY LANGUAGE

**CHILDREN FIRST CANADA**

**ARTICLE 1** Everyone under 18 has special rights as children.

**ARTICLE 2** All children have these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what their parents do, what language they speak, what their religion is, what race they are a boy or girl, what their culture is, whether they have a disability, whether they are rich or poor. No child should be treated unfairly on any basis.

**ARTICLE 3** All adults should do what is best for you. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children.

**ARTICLE 4** The government has a responsibility to make sure your rights are protected. They must help your family to protect your rights and create an environment where you can grow and reach your potential.

**ARTICLE 5** Your family has the responsibility to help you learn to exercise your rights, and to ensure that your rights are protected.

**ARTICLE 6** You have the right to life.

**ARTICLE 7** You have the right to a name, and this should be officially recognized by the government. You have the right to a nationality (to belong to a country).

**ARTICLE 8** You have the right to an identity - an official record of who you are. No one should take this away from you.

**ARTICLE 9** You have the right to live with your parents, unless it is best for you. You have the right to live with a family who cares for you.

**ARTICLE 10** If you live in a different country than your parents do, you have the right to be together in the same place.

**ARTICLE 11** You have the right to be protected from kidnapping.

**ARTICLE 12** You have the right to give your opinion, and for adults to listen and take it seriously.

**ARTICLE 13** You have the right to hold our things and share what you think with others, by talking, drawing, writing or in any other way, unless it harms or offends other people.

**ARTICLE 14** You have the right to choose your own religion and beliefs. Your parents should help you decide what is right and wrong, and what is best for you.

**ARTICLE 15** You have the right to choose your own friends and join or set up groups, as long as it isn't harmful to others.

**ARTICLE 16** You have the right to privacy.

**ARTICLE 17** You have the right to get information that is important to your well-being, from radio, newspapers, books, computers and other sources. Adults should make sure that the information you are getting is not harmful and help you find and understand the information you need.

**ARTICLE 18** You have the right to be raised by your parent(s) if possible.

**ARTICLE 19** You have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, in body or mind.

**ARTICLE 20** You have the right to special care and help if you cannot live with your parents.

**ARTICLE 21** You have the right to care and protection if you are adopted (or in foster care).

**ARTICLE 22** You have the right to special protection and help if you are a refugee (if you have been forced to leave your home and live in another country), as well as all the rights in this Convention.

**ARTICLE 23** You have the right to special education and care if you have a disability, so that you can live a full life.

**ARTICLE 24** You have the right to the best health care possible, safe water, to drink nutritious food, a clean and safe environment, and information to help you stay well.

**ARTICLE 25** If you live in care or in other situations away from home, you have the right to have those living arrangements looked at regularly to see if they are the most appropriate.

**ARTICLE 26** You have the right to help from the government if you are poor or in need.

**ARTICLE 27** You have the right to food, clothing, a safe place to live and to have your basic needs met. This should not be disadvantaged so that you can't do many of the things other kids can do.

**ARTICLE 28** You have the right to a good quality education. You should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level you can.

**ARTICLE 29** Your education should help you and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

**ARTICLE 30** You have the right to practice your own culture, language and religion - or life you choose. Minorities and indigenous groups need special protection of this right.

**ARTICLE 31** You have the right to play and rest.

**ARTICLE 32** You have the right to protection from work that harms you and is bad for your health and education. If you work, you have the right to be safe and paid fairly.

**ARTICLE 33** You have the right to protection from harmful drugs and from the drug trade.

**ARTICLE 34** You have the right to be free from sexual abuse.

**ARTICLE 35** No one is allowed to kidnap or sell you.

**ARTICLE 36** You have the right to protection from any kind of exploitation (being taken advantage of).

**ARTICLE 37** No one is allowed to punish you in a cruel or harmful way.

**ARTICLE 38** You have the right to protection and freedom from war. Children under 15 cannot be forced to go into the army or take part in war.

**ARTICLE 39** You have the right to help if you've been hurt, neglected or badly treated.

**ARTICLE 40** You have the right to legal help and fair treatment in the justice system that respects your rights.

**ARTICLE 41** If the laws of your country provide better protection of your rights than the articles in this Convention, those laws should apply.

**ARTICLE 42** You have the right to know your rights! Adults should know about these rights and help you learn about them, too.

**ARTICLES 43 TO 54** These articles explain how governments and other organizations are to work to ensure children are protected with their rights.

**EVERY CHILD HAS SOMETHING IN COMMON - THEIR RIGHTS!**

# EVERYONE HAVING A SAY!

Student participation is about ensuring and developing a culture within schools where students **have a voice**, and have the opportunity to play an active role in **decisions that affect their learning and well-being**.



Schools which have student participation have pupils who are **happier** and **participate in their education more effectively** when their ideas are **listened to**, and their **opinions valued**



### INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY

- Freedom of speech for all
- The right to make your own choices



### TOLERANCE

- Learning about different faith and cultures
- **Listening to other viewpoints**
- Learning about diversity



### DEMOCRACY

- **Making decisions together**
- The right to an opinion/voice



### THE RULE OF LAW

- Understanding rules and why they are important
- Following rules to develop order



### MUTUAL RESPECT

- Treating others as you would wish to be treated
- Respect for each other
- **Working together**

# British Values



# VOTE FOR ME!



A key and integral part of setting up a Student Council is ensuring the election of members is ***fair, open and supportive*** to all students.

9/10 Representatives  
from each year group  
(1 per Tutor Group  
including IR)

You will meet once a  
month in Tutor Time



# WHAT WILL THE STUDENT COUNCIL DO?

It will be up to your year group council to decide on the issues important to their peers

These are some issues that the **British Youth Council** are campaigning on:

