



Knocknacarra Educate Together
National School

Pupil Committees

This policy has been formulated by Knocknacarra ETNS to provide guidance related to the management of committees involving pupils in the school.

Contents

Introduction:	1
Background and Rationale:	1
Relationship to School Ethos:	1
Aims and Objectives:	1
Policies and Procedures:	1
Pupil Committees	1
Procedures for Forming Committees	2
Communication Procedures	2
Implementation and Review:	3
Ratification and Communication:	3

Introduction:

This school policy on pupil committees was written in consultation with staff as well as members of the various school committees in order to provide structure and guidance for this important aspect of the school's democratic ethos.

Background and Rationale:

Knocknacarra Educate Together NS values pupil voice as integral in our learning community. As our school has developed, this has been formalised by developing a number of committees involving pupils, staff and in the future parents who will collaborate on shaping the teaching and learning experiences as well as provide input to whole-school planning and evaluation.

Relationship to School Ethos:

Knocknacarra ETNS follows the key principles of Educate Together: equality-based, co-educational, child-centred and democratically run. Providing a place for democratic consultation is an important aspect of the school's lived ethos.

Aims and Objectives:

- To define the roles and purposes of different pupil committees.
- To explain procedures in place to ensure that all children in the school have the opportunity to become involved in different committees.
- To establish clear procedures regarding the approach to communication and the interaction between the committees and the wider school community.

Policies and Procedures:

Pupil Committees

Currently six committees are established in the school, and additional committees may be organised depending on capacity and the school community's needs. The committees are described below.

Student Council

Student Council leads our efforts to become a Child Rights School. They work on promoting the voice of children in our learning community and highlighting the rights of children. The Student Council also influences policy decisions and is working on adapting policies in a child-friendly style as well as ensuring the children's rights are referenced in key policies. In addition, they organise outreach events in our community and also fundraise through events to support charitable organisations.

Green School Committee

The Green School Committee leads the school's work under the Green Flag Programme. Having achieved the first Green Flag for Litter and Waste Management in 2021, the school is currently completing the application for the second Green Flag on the theme of water. The Green School Committee leads efforts to promote environmental awareness and sustainability.

Active School Committee

The Active School Committee promotes physical activity, fitness and physical education in our school. They were awarded their first Active Flag in 2019. The Active School Committee is currently applying

for a renewal of the flag. The Committee leads the various activities such as Active Líne and Active School Week. The members of the Committee take responsibility for playground equipment and support the safe participation of everyone.

Creative Schools Committee

Our school was chosen as one of 150 schools to participate in the Creative Schools programme supported by the Arts Council in 2018. Even after the completion of the two-year programme, the Committee continues to promote creative activities throughout the school and helps to ensure a wide range of experiences are provided for all forms of creative expression. This year the Committee will be involved in leading work towards the Digital Arts Flag.

An Ghaelbhratach

Thosaigh an scoil ag glacadh páirt sa Gaelbhratach in 2019. Is é aidhm an scéim Gaelbhrataí ná Gaeilge labhartha a chur chun cinn sa scoil. Eagraíonn Coiste an Gaelbhrataí gníomhaíochtaí sa scoil, go hairithe Seachtain na Gaeilge agus Tionól.

The school began participating in the Gaelbhratach programme in 2019. The aim of Gaelbhratach is to promote spoken Irish in the school. The Gaelbhratach Committee organises events in the school, especially Seachtain na Gaeilge and assemblies.

STEM Committee

The newest committee has the job of encouraging Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) programmes in the school. They take the lead in organising events for Maths Week, Engineers Week and other programmes. They also coordinate the school's participation in the SFI Science Awards.

Procedures for Forming Committees

- Committees are formed normally on an annual basis. Two representatives from each class (1st Class and upwards) are selected to represent each class at the beginning of each school year in the month of September. Therefore, each committee has 12 pupils. These representatives may be chosen by election or a random method.
- Pupils normally would only serve one school year on a committee, and teachers will ensure that all children have at least 2 opportunities to be on a committee if they are enrolled in the school for the six years they are eligible.
- A record is kept by the principal to ensure a rotation of pupil membership.
- All staff members are expected to contribute to at least one committee.
- Parents are being invited to participate, but Garda Vetting will be required before they can regularly join the meetings.

Communication Procedures

- Meetings will be held approximately monthly from 13.40 to 14.20. They will take place on a Thursday directly preceding a tionól (whole-school assembly). Children not on a committee will participate in a learning activity with their year-bands (1st & 2nd, 3rd & 4th and 5th & 6th), with supervision rotated among staff members.
- Minutes will be taken using a common format, ideally by a volunteer pupil.

Pupil Committees Policy – Knocknacarra Educate Together NS – 2023

- At the tionól on the day following the meetings, representatives of the committees will report to the school community.
- Staff leaders are expected to add posts to the committee pages on the website, highlighting the tasks that have been completed.

Implementation and Review:

The policy has immediate effect and will be reviewed as required and no later than 2026.

Ratification and Communication:

The policy was ratified by the BoM on the date below. It will be posted on the school website and given to all committee staff members.

Paul Adams, chairperson

Date of ratification: 22nd March 2023