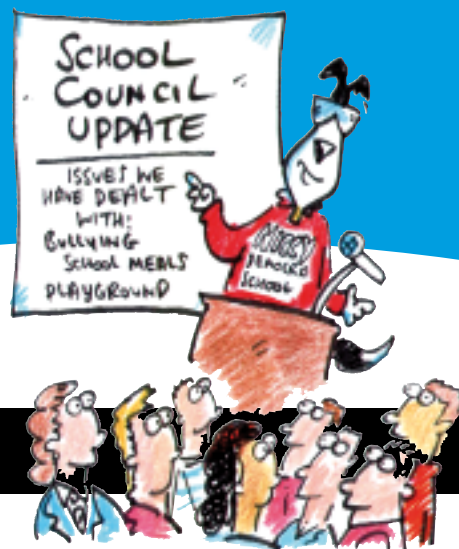




HAVING YOUR SAY



>> REPORTING TO YOU!

As part of its accountability, details of school council business should be communicated in an open and transparent way, ensuring accessibility of information.

Why

The importance of an open and transparent communication process cannot be over-emphasised. There should be positive communication between students who sit on the council and those who don't, and also between the council and the school management, staff and parents.

An open system helps to ensure that:

- All pupils can submit their views to the council on issues being discussed
- All pupils can put issues on the agenda for discussion
- Pupils can feed into and receive feedback from the school management committee on potential decisions / policies / practices that will have an impact on the student body
- The school council is working for and on behalf of their peers, identifying relevant issues and seeking resolution where needed
- All actions are accountable
- The removal of any secrecy or myths about what the school council is or is not doing

The members of the council should be aware of and understand that as school council representatives they are answerable to their peers.

How

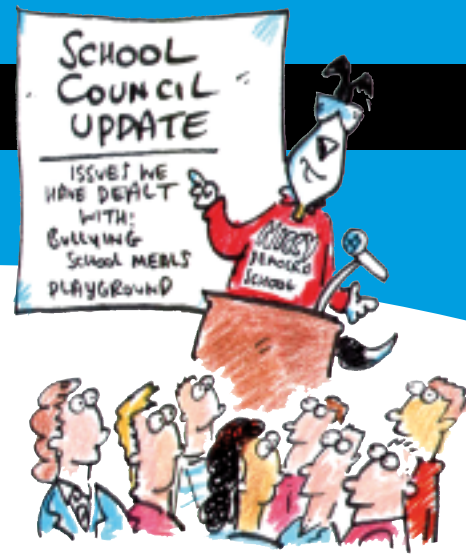
There are many practical ways in which school council business can be shared within the school:

- Have regular times when members of the council and fellow pupils can meet in order to feed into issues for the agenda and receive feedback from previous meetings
- Use assembly or class time to announce upcoming events
- Produce a school council newsletter or E-newsletter (ezine)
- Carry out surveys to gather views on issues being discussed by the council
- The school itself can consult with the council on issues affecting the operation of the school
- Ensure there is a communication process between the council and school management, staff and parents. This should include attending appropriate elements of board/staff meetings
- The school council could provide regular updates to the Board of Governors, principal and Parents & Teachers Associations (PTA) on the school council's activities and plans
- Have a specific school council notice board somewhere central where information on activities can be posted
- Develop a communications plan to ensure the flow of information is kept open



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Checklist

Have you:	Tick
1. Developed a communications plan and shared it with pupils and staff	[]
2. Agreed with all involved how information is going to be shared	[]
3. Identified an area where school council information can be posted	[]
4. Received permission to develop a school council newsletter / e-newsletter	[]

For further information on exploring issues around accountability and communication you may wish to visit the following websites:

English Secondary Student Association:
www.studentvoice.co.uk

Dept. of Education, New South Wales:
www.schools.nsw.edu.au

Dept. of Education, State of Victoria:
www.education.vic.gov.au

Ministry of Education, Ontario:
www.edu.gov.on.ca

Hear by Right, National Youth Agency:
www.nya.org.uk

