Proposed Structure for Secondary Student Councils within Rotherham

Tutor Group: 2 representatives (preferably one boy, one girl, but not essential)

Year Councils: Made up of representatives from all tutor groups

School Councils: Made up of representatives from Year Councils

Rotherham Youth Cabinet: Made up of 4 representatives from each school/college

*may be more representatives, depending on the size of the school.

Student Councils may wish to use a self assessment audit to judge their effectiveness.
An audit has been developed locally and is available through the Rotherham Healthy Schools Scheme (healthyschools@rotherham.gov.uk)

This document was produced in consultation with Rotherham Youth Cabinet, Rotherham Young People’s Services, Rotherham Healthy Schools, and the students and staff of Aston Comprehensive School, Pope Pius X Catholic High School, St Bernard’s Catholic High School a Specialist School for the Arts, Wath Comprehensive School a Language College and Wingfield Comprehensive School.

For further information and support, please contact

Liz Galliver  Senior Healthy Schools Consultant
Tel 01709 740226
email: liz.galliver@rotherham.gov.uk

Clare Cope  Senior Youth Worker  Voice and Influence
Tel 01709 335997
email: clare.cope@rotherham.gov.uk
**Introduction by Di Billups**

**Executive Director of Children and Young People’s Services Development**

The voice of young people is of crucial importance in ensuring high achieving, successful, happy and healthy schools. Making sure young people feel that they are listened to and having a real impact will enable them to become active citizens who are able to make a positive contribution to the Borough.

The role that student councils can play in the daily lives of schools cannot be over-estimated, and I would urge all schools to embrace the principles outlined in this leaflet.

**Mission Statement from Rotherham Youth Cabinet**

“All young people need to have the same opportunities to participate in student councils, and a similar experience when they do”

**Aim of Secondary Student Councils**

To enhance the quality of school/college life for everyone

**Objectives**

- To give students a voice about issues that really matter to students and staff
- To help all staff, non-teaching staff, governors and parents acknowledge and value the views of young people
- For young people to play an active role in the everyday running of the school and college
- To bring students together across all year groups
- To help young people to develop skills and build confidence and self esteem
- To send representatives to the Youth Cabinet to access wider decision-making structures across the Borough

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**Principles of Good Practice in Secondary Student Councils**

**Structure of Councils**

It is important that the structure of Councils is common and consistent throughout all schools and colleges. A proposed structure is outlined on the back page but could be adapted according to local need.

**Valued**

The role of the Councils needs to be valued and supported by students and teachers, non-teaching staff, governors and parents within schools and colleges.

**Image**

The Council should strive to be fully representative of all the student body, through developing a positive image of the Council’s work.

**Tasks and Roles**

Tasks and roles should be undertaken by young people with appropriate support and training.

**Staff Role**

The role of teachers or other staff is to be motivators, enablers and advocates and to support the facilitation of the Council.

**Budget**

The Council should be allocated a budget.

**Secret Ballots**

The Council should be democratically elected by secret ballot.

**Constitution**

The constitution should be short and concise, and written and agreed by young people.

**Communication**

There should be clear lines of two-way communication between students, the council, the staff, the governing body and Rotherham Youth Cabinet. Discussions should be fed back to the main student body.

**Schedule of Meetings**

The Council should meet on a regular basis – possibly no less than once a month.

**Remit of the Council**

There should be no restraints on what the students discuss as long as it is done in a spirit of respect and within a positive framework.