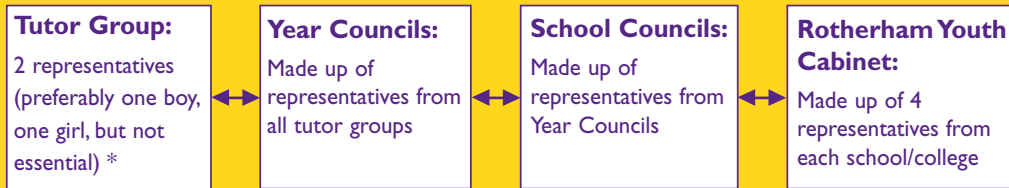


## Proposed Structure for Secondary Student Councils within Rotherham



\*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](mailto: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

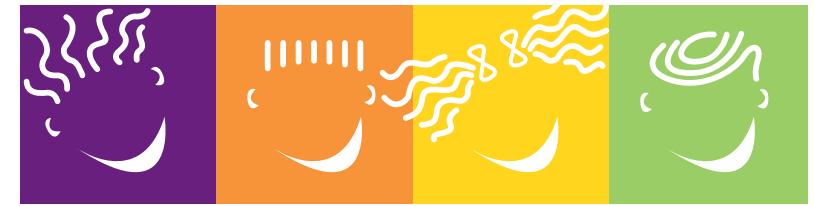
e mail: [liz.galliver@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:liz.galliver@rotherham.gov.uk)

**Clare Cope**

*Senior Youth Worker Voice and Influence*

Tel 01709 335997

e mail: [clare.cope@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:clare.cope@rotherham.gov.uk)



**ROTHERHAM youth CABINET**

t h e v o i c e o f t h e f u t u r e

# Secondary Student Councils

2004



"All of us matter in Rotherham"  
Children, Young People and Families



**connexions**

The best start in life for every young person

**Rotherham**  
Metropolitan  
Borough Council

## 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

## 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