



OUR LADY'S ABINGDON (OLA) STUDENT VOICE POLICY

This policy, which applies to the whole school, is publicly available on the school website and upon request a copy (which can be made available in large print or other accessible format if required) may be obtained from the School Office.

Document Details

Information Sharing Category	School Domain
Version	1
Date Published	September 2022
Authorised by (if required)	Head
Responsible Area	Leadership Team

We comply with the Government guidance and regulations, currently in force, regarding COVID.

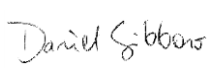

Availability: All who work, volunteer or supply services to our school have an equal responsibility to understand and implement this policy and its procedures both within and outside of normal school hours, including activities away from school.

Monitoring and Review:

Reviewed: September 2022

Next Review: September 2023

Signed:

Head	Deputy Head
Mr Daniel Gibbons	Dr Beth Reynaert
Signed: 	Signed: 

1. Purpose of Student Voice

We believe in a **SPiRITED** education which uniquely blends Spiritual, Pastoral, Individual, Relationships, Inclusive and Team learning, to cultivate ambitious learning identities for all, within a framework which supports, challenges and enriches.

“TO EACH ACCORDING TO THEIR NEED”

Articles 12 and 13 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child: states that every child has the rights to express their views in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously.

- 12.1. Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his/her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.
- 12.2. For this purpose, the child shall in particular be provided the opportunity to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child, either directly, or through a representative or an appropriate body, in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law.
- 13.1. The child shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of the child's choice.
- 13.2. The exercise of this right may be subject to certain restrictions, but these shall only be such as are provided by law and are necessary: (a) For respect of the rights or reputations of others; or (b) For the protection of national security or of public order or of public health or morals.

Digital amendment: In 2021, a new addition was made to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, officially called “General comment No.25 (2021) on children’s rights in relation to the digital environment. It includes a statement that

Our Lady’s Abingdon is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of pupils and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. It is our aim that all pupils fulfil their potential.

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“children have opinions that must be taken into account in all the things they care about. They must be listened to when they have a problem and be made aware of what action has been taken”

The purpose of the Student Voice is to make sure that pupil views are heard and taken into consideration when adults make decisions about the school. It is a partnership between OLA and its students and ensures that student views are heard in relation to issues that affect academic progress, achievement and personal wellbeing. OLA understands the issues and difficulties young people face and endeavour to support pupils by listening to their views and gaining a valuable insight into their classroom experience. As such, our students are partners in developing a positive student experience.

There are a number of initiatives at the school by which students share their views, and this policy details the systems for gathering feedback through:

- The Student Council
- Student online feedback questionnaires
- Pupil voice at Departmental Level

2. Remit and Scope:

School Council members are ambassadors and represent OLA in a positive manner. Their role is:

- To seek the views of students on their experiences
- To propose initiatives for improving the experience

School Council Meetings involve:

- One member of the Leadership Team (Deputy Head and/or Assistant Heads)
- A minimum of one school council representative from each form.
- One of the student Heads of School

Member selection

Our Lady’s Abingdon is an inclusive school. Interested students put their names forward for selection into the School Council. Each form can have up to 2 school council members. If students are successful in being selected, they receive school council badges and a letter is sent home confirming selection. We aim for the school Council to reflect a balance of both British and international students.

3. Roles of responsibility

All students will:

- Respect and support the members of the school council
- Participate fully in the work of the school council.
- Discuss genuine issues in a constructive manner.

School council members will:

- Represent their form in a mature and constructive manner.
- Attend all meetings, bringing the collective views of their form
- Make a genuine effort to improve the school.
- Work hard to become a positive role model for the rest of the school council.
- Wear their badges at all times as an indication of their role as a school council member.

Parents will:

- Encourage students to participate in the school council

Teachers, form tutors and support staff will:

- Facilitate students in participating fully in school planning and decision making.
- Encourage full class participation in collecting views.

Leadership team will:

- Review the running of the school council.
- Take minutes at School Council meetings
- Respond to any queries or issues brought before them by the student council.
- Encourage and promote the student council.
- Ensure that students feel they have an important and proactive role to play in the running of the school.

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4. Process and Frequency of Meetings

The Council will meet once every half term. The minutes will be taken by the Deputy Head or Assistant Heads and will be made available to the Students. Notes and actions from the previous meeting should be available and reflect the value of attendance and responsiveness to feedback and the actions taken.

The success of the school council will be judged by the evidence of improvements to academic performance, student personal welfare and behaviour.

Agenda items: The agenda should be balanced between general feedback and at least one higher-level theme for review. Items for discussion should also include, but not be limited to:

- Teaching, content and assessment
- Personal development, wellbeing and welfare
- Curriculum and extra-Curricular activities

Online Student Questionnaires

Student questionnaires will be administered a minimum of twice per year and will gauge students' opinions of specific teaching, content and assessment and the wellbeing and welfare of students.

Presenting minutes at Leadership meetings

Student Council minutes are discussed at Leadership Team Meetings with action points. Actions will be discussed/shared at Governor meetings.

5. Pupil voice within Departments

As part of Department procedures and quality assurance, pupil voice will be canvassed. Any student views and feedback collected will be shared with teaching staff.

6. Student Grievances and Complaints

Student grievances and complaints will be managed in accordance with the Grievance and Complaints Policy.