

# Torphins Primary School

## Pupil Council Constitution



**Article 12 - "children have the right to express the views they have, and those views should be listened to in anything that affects them."**

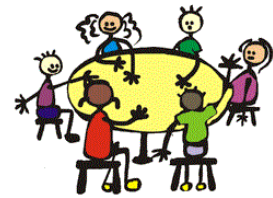


Updated November 2020

## What is a Pupil Council?

A Pupil Council:

- is one way of giving pupils a voice in school matters and in matters that affect them.
- supports and promotes restorative justice and anti-bullying approaches.
- gives pupils a chance to make changes for the better in their school.
- helps promote Rights Respecting School values.
- gives pupils a forum for discussion where they can share their thoughts and feelings.



## Torphins Pupil Council

We have two representatives per class in P4-7 on our Pupil Council.

Their role is to:

- be a positive role model
- listen carefully to others
- attend meetings and contribute to discussions and make suggestions
- take on responsibilities

## Why have a Pupil Council?

Children have rights.



The United Nations convention on the Rights of the child states in article 12 - "Children have the right to express the views they have, and those views should be listened to in anything that affects them."

## A Pupil Council

- gets us involved - education should be done with us not to us.
- gives all pupils a chance to talk about things they are happy or unhappy about.
- gets good ideas from pupils.
- helps to make us pupils feel we are part of the school team.

## What has Torphins Pupil Council done in the last year?

- Created a Pupil Council information board which displays the agenda and minutes for all pupils to see.
- Taken a lead role in assemblies by presenting the Celebrations of Success and introducing the Rights Respecting School monthly value.
- Carried out How Good Is OUR School surveys and given feedback to pupils and staff.
- Updated the playground and lunch hall charters.
- For World Children's Day we launched our shoe share and led an assembly.
- Organised fundraising.

## Making changes

A Pupil Council must be realistic about what it can do. Some things we can change, some things we can't. Also, we can't change all the things pupils want at once - we have to prioritise (i.e. the most important things that affect the most pupils). This involves a lot of negotiation, discussion and compromises. That's what it means to work as a team.

## Elections

In P4-7, classes discuss what makes a good Pupil Council Rep. Then those who wish to be a rep put their names forward.



Those pupils in turn, present to their own class why they want to be a rep, the skills and qualities they have, and why they think they would make a good rep.

In classes, pupils vote for their preferred candidates on a voting slip. The votes are then counted and the two pupils with the most votes are elected.