Learning and caring together,
building a firm foundation for the future.

FOUNDDED 1865

Date of Last Review: July 2015
Date to be Revisited: July 2017
**Rationale**

We believe that children need to be active participants in their own education and to feel that their opinions will be heard in the wider school community.

At Holy Trinity, we therefore seek ways to listen to the views of our pupils and involve them in decision-making so that they are engaged as partners in the life of the school. We believe that this will make a positive contribution to the school environment and ethos.

**Student voice and pupil participation activities at Holy Trinity**

There is a wide range of approaches that we are developing at Holy Trinity to support pupil participation and promote student voice:

- School Council fortnightly meetings
- School Council minutes shared on website
- Fundraising opportunities
- Pupil surveys
- Computer experts
- Investors in Pupils
- Links with other schools
- Leading Lights
- Meetings/ideas shared with other staff members
- House and Vice captains
- Play leaders and Game makers
- Working alongside the PTFA

**Curriculum**

We also believe in embedding pupil voice into the curriculum, with teaching and learning activities being used to enable pupils to focus on how to make informed decisions about their lives, their health and well-being, and the environment, for example extra curriculum activities children would like to see happen and participate in, Lunch time rewards and play time and lunch time activities that can be run at play time to make it more enjoyable.

**School Council**

One of the principle means by which pupil voice activity is progressed in school is by the use of the School Council. We believe that our school council will enhance and influence positive peer leadership and mutual responsibility throughout the school.

School Council will:

- Be a positive forum
- Provide an opportunity for all children to be heard
- Provide a forum for the leadership of the school to listen to children’s knowledge and opinions
- Aid communication throughout the school
• Build the children’s confidence and self-esteem
• Encourage the children to be active citizens
• Provide the children with a democratic model
• Liaison with different members of staff to voice their ideas
• Hold assemblies throughout the year for a general update on what they have done and what they will be planning to do

School Council will also be used to assist the school with its self-evaluation procedures and enable us to be more accountable to the whole school community.

School Council in Practice

When recruiting for new school member at the beginning of the year, children have to write to their class teacher, stating the reasons why they would like to be their class rep. These ideas are then shared with the class and then children nominate who they would like to represent their class, based on the ideas communicated; every class elects one School Council Representative. School Council membership will consist of a member of staff, who generally chairs the meeting alongside the Year 6 representatives, the School Council Representatives, and a School Governor Representative.

Every class holds a class council on a fortnightly basis. This is an opportunity for School Council Representatives to discuss the School Council agenda, and to gather feedback. School Council meetings are scheduled on the school calendar and take place periodically throughout the school year.

At each meeting, those present and absent are noted, and apologies read out. Matters arising from the previous meeting are discussed, followed by business for the meeting in accordance with the agenda. A list of main agenda items is set prior to the fortnightly meetings. At some meetings a guest speaker will be invited. This may be another member of staff, or an outside speaker.

Minutes are recorded and circulated to staff and school council representatives to share with their peers as well as shared on the School Council web page.

School Council organise their own activities and liaise to accommodate these activities on the school calendar. Members of the School Council take part in staff recruitment, forming an interview panel. The School Council generates funds and manages how these funds are used. Members of the School Council may also represent the school at community meetings and at meetings of the Leadership Team and Governing Body where appropriate. They also link with other church schools in Gravesham and raise funds for their local chosen charity.

Involving pupils in their own learning

Pupil participation in their own learning means a range of different things in the classroom. It includes developing projects to reflect interests and needs as expressed by pupils; encouraging pupils’ reflection on their own and others’ learning; reflection by pupils on the style and content of lessons and opportunities to give feedback to teachers.

Benefits of pupil involvement
There is a range of benefits in greater participation. For pupils these include increased self-confidence and feelings of empowerment, and a greater sense of responsibility.

Behaviour has the potential to improve with pupils taking greater responsibility for their own behaviour, as well as improved learning.

We believe that there is a positive impact of pupil participation on their own work and the school environment.

Children’s insight into the ways they learn best and the ideas that they have for lesson content and style as well as their ideas on the life of the school should be welcomed. Pupils’ learning will improve when their views are taken into consideration. This can only have a positive impact on raising standards.

**Developing a whole school approach**

To encourage a consistent, positive attitude to pupil participation at Holy Trinity, the whole staff, including the non-teaching staff, should understand the benefits of pupil participation, be clear in their role in terms of supporting pupil participation and be kept well informed about issues being discussed and proposals put forward by the school council and other pupil representative groups.

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

Pupil participation and pupil voice are monitored and evaluated by the Headteacher in line with other existing procedures for curriculum development.