



ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

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Hearing the Pupil Voice: How St Joseph's Listens to Pupils

At St Joseph's College, we value the opinion of the pupils in all matters relating to the College and this document is intended to summarise the arrangements within the College to ensure that the voice of the pupil is heard at all times.

Tutor Groups

Pupils meet with their tutor groups and tutors twice a day for registration. Furthermore, there are allocated tutor times and tutor reflections every Tuesday and Friday from 0830 – 0850. The tutor group is a place where pupils are encouraged to discuss any concerns they may have informally with each other and their tutors.

Head Student Team

The Head Student Team consists of a Head Boy and Girl and Deputy Head Boy and Girl who are elected into position at the end of the Spring Term in Sixth Form and remain in post until the end of Spring Term in Year 13. The Head students lead the pupil voice within the school and represent the school in a number of public events, which include Speech Night, Senior School Open Evening, Prize Giving, Founders Day, and the Sixth Form Ball. The Head students lead a number of assemblies and take an active role within the life of the Senior School.

House Captains

The Houses are led by two members of Sixth Form (one boy and one girl) who are elected into position at the end of the Spring Term in Sixth Form and remain in post until the end of Spring Term in Year 13. The House Captains meet the House Coordinator to plan and run House assemblies every half term, support House events, upholding the ethos of the House system and displaying an enthusiasm for the House.

Prefects

Prefects are pupils in Sixth Form that have been elected into position and all prefects are allocated to support a department as a subject prefect. The Prefects support the school by attendance at significant school occasions as required, at all times, acting with, setting an example in, and urging others to act with courtesy, consideration and common sense. The Prefects take a leading role within the Sixth Form generally, and specifically within the Sixth Form Centre.

Year Group Representatives Each year group has two elected Year Group Representatives in Years 5 – 12 and the Head Students in Year 13, that have a high profile across the College.

The most important aspects of the role are concerned with being the voice of the year group as well as establishing and maintaining a good spirit in the College. The Year Group Representatives take a lead role in organising year group events and meet regularly with the Head of Year, Head of Seniors/Sixth Form or Prep Pastoral Lead.



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Student Committees

School Council The Year Group Representatives attend school council every half term, chaired by the Head Students. The aim is to discuss matters that fall outside of the various committees, and propose and implement a project for which they are given a budget. The Head, College Deputy Head Prep and College Deputy Head Pastoral are also present at the School Council meetings and will ensure that all proposals and issues are handled appropriately. The Year Group Representatives will feedback to their year groups.

Inclusion, Diversity and Equality Committee Each year group from Years 5 – 12 have two members on the committee, as well as the Head Students team. The committee meet once every half term and are the voice of the pupil's regarding all aspects of IDE (e.g. gender, race, disability, sexuality, age & religion) at St Joseph's College. Key aims are to promote inclusion, diversity and equality across College life and in the curriculum.

Catering Committee Each year group from Years 5 – 12 has two members on the committee as well as the Food Technology Prefect. The committee meets once every half term with the Catering Manager of Thomas Franks, our catering company, to discuss the catering provision in the College, ensuring that the suggestions from the student body are taken into consideration.

Chaplaincy and Charities Committee Each year group from Years 5 – 12 has two members on the committee as well as the Religious Studies Prefect. They meet once every half term to assist the Chaplain in planning roles for pending liturgies and discuss opportunities for charitable and social outreach work. The Chaplain and Head of Religious Studies attend the Chaplaincy and Charities Committee.

IT Committee The IT Committee consists of two members from each year group from Years 5 – 12 and the IT Prefect. The committee meets every half term to discuss the use of IT at St Joseph's and identifies initiatives and issues surrounding IT and eSafety. The committee contributes to the running of Safer Internet Day and supports in the supervision of S5 and S6 during break and lunch times. The Head of Technology and eSafety Coordinator attend the IT Committee.

Eco-Committee Members of the Eco Committee are responsible for raising the profile of environmental issues within school and initiating activities to help the school to reduce its impact on the environment. Each year group from Years 5 – 12 has two members on the committee as well as the Geography Prefect, they meet twice a term. The committee investigates and initiates projects and schemes regarding environmental sustainability. They also facilitate opportunities throughout the year to review the schools eco-friendly projects and schemes. The Bursar and Geography teacher attend the Eco Committee meetings.



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Student Forums

Sixth Form Forum

The Sixth Form Forum is led by the Head Students and attended by committee members and Form Captains. They meet once every half term to discuss matters associated specifically with the Sixth Form and to consider proposals for changes that might be made. Issues arising are discussed with the Head of Sixth Form, and where appropriate, are passed onto the various committees or School Council.

Upper Seniors Section Council

The Upper Seniors Section Council meet once every half term and consist of Form Captains and Committee Members in addition to the Year Group Representatives. All pupils can raise suggestions/issues via direct contact with Form Captains/Year Group Representatives, or via email, which can be either considered within the Section Council or passed on to the appropriate committee.

The Upper Seniors Section Council is chaired by the Heads of Year 9 and 10 and the 11.

Lower Seniors Section Council

The Lower Seniors Section Council meet once every half term and consist of Form Captains and Committee Members in addition to the Year Group Representatives. All pupils can raise suggestions/issues via direct contact with Form Captains/Year Group Representatives, or via email, which can be either considered within the Section Council or passed on to the appropriate committee.

The Lower Seniors Section Council is chaired by the Heads of Year 7 and 8.

Who to Talk To

At St Joseph's we know that most pupils feel happy and feel safe. However, there may be occasions when pupils need additional advice or support. There is a poster of "Who to Talk to" in every classroom and this shows the support available for pupils both in school and has a number of external support agencies. We have over 20 members of staff certified in Mental Health First Aid.

Within the College, there are four levels of mental health and wellbeing support available. Parents will be consulted prior to any pupil receiving mental health or wellbeing support.

Staff Mentors:

Pupils are paired with a member of staff for 1:1 support, which may be in an academic and/or pastoral context. The aim is to inspire confidence in the pupil and enable them to get to know who they are and what they are able to do, rather than focussing on what they cannot. A staff mentor will support, encourage and guide pupils to overcome challenges (e.g. organisation, friendships, understanding skills and strengths, setting



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achievable goals, understanding setbacks and celebrating achievements) and in turn break down barriers to learning.

Lay Chaplain:

The School Lay Chaplain is Mrs Bray, who is a source of counsel and support to all pupils of any faith and none. If they are having any issues at home or in school, or just not feeling happy, she can offer a friendly face, support and even a cuppa (with biscuits included) to help them feel better. Pupils are able to arrange an appointment to see Mrs Bray either by texting her on her school mobile or by arranging an appointment through their Head of Seniors or Sixth Form in the Senior School or the Prep Pastoral Lead.

Primary Mental Health Worker:

A primary mental health worker is a professional with a background in health and social care who specialises in working with young people's emotional and mental health, and who can give advice and support at an early stage when difficulties first arise.

Mr Danesh Pour the pastoral team in recognising early signs of mental health difficulties and determining whether a young person needs further support from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Specialist Pathways or early intervention to avoid developing long term mental health disorders. Mr Danesh Pour is an experienced practitioner in the assessment and treatment of mild to moderate mental health difficulties. He works with pupils 1:1 in collaboration with their families in order to implement personal support plans, which enable young people to lead normal healthy lives and maintain positive well-being. This is usually done over a course of 4-8 sessions determined on a case-by-case basis.

This level of support aims to provide immediate support during the interim waiting period for CAMHS. Waiting periods are currently 24 months for ASD, 18 months for ADHD and 18 months for one to one support from a psychologist. Mr Danesh Pour is also able to support with the referral process for ADHD and ASD to ensure an efficient route to assessment.

Sessions with Mr Danesh Pour should be booked through the Deputy Head Pastoral. If you have any concerns, or would like more information, please contact one of the College Deputy Heads, or the Head of Seniors/Sixth Form.