



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 daily for morning registration at 0820. Furthermore, there are allocated tutor times for reflections, discussions, and section assemblies every Monday to Thursday from 0830 – 0850. The tutor group is a place where pupils are encouraged with discuss any concerns they may have informally with each other and their tutors.

Head Student Team

The Head Student Team consists of 4 to 6 Head Students who are elected to 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 but are not limited to Senior School Open Evening, Prize Giving, Alumni Day, 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. They meet fortnightly with the Head to discuss their Head Students project and other matters.

House Captains

Each House is led by two members of Sixth Form who are selected for the 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 Head of House 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. They meet fortnightly with the Head to discuss College wide matters.

Prefects

Prefects are pupils in Sixth Form that have been elected into position and all prefects are allocate 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 College, and also within the Sixth Form Centre.

Year Group Representatives and School Council 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, Sixth Form or Prep Pastoral Lead.



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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 support with the implementation of the Head Students Project. 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.

Student Committees

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. 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.

Digital Champions Committee The Digital Champions Committee consists of two members from each year group from Years 5 – 12, who are passionate about digital learning and technology. The purpose of this committee is to collaborate, share, learn, and teach interesting digital learning for Microsoft 365, Teams, and OneNote. Through this committee, pupils will be empowered to become technology leaders within their school community.

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, 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.

Enrichment Committee Members from Year 5 – 12 are responsible for supporting the development of the Co-Curriculum and House System. The Committee aims to provide constructive feedback on the current provision of CCA's, House and Trips. They will help to facilitate new initiatives and ideas to further enhance Enrichment at the College and have an active role in planning and participating in events throughout the academic year.



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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 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.

Lay Chaplain:

The School Lay Chaplain 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 via Teams or by arranging an appointment through their Head of Year or Sixth Form in the Senior School or the Prep Pastoral Lead.

Mental Health Practitioner:

A Mental Health Practitioner 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.



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The Mental Health Practitioner supports 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. The Mental Health Practitioner is experienced in the assessment and treatment of mild to moderate mental health difficulties. They work 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 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. Our Mental Health Practitioner is also able to support with the referral process for ADHD and ASD to ensure an efficient route to assessment.

Sessions with the Mental Health Practitioner 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 your Head of Year.