



## Student Voice and Agency Policy

### Rationale

At Whittlesea Secondary College, we believe that student input and engagement are vital to creating a positive and inclusive learning environment. Our Student Voice Policy aims to promote active student participation, encourage student leadership, and ensure that student perspectives are valued and incorporated into decision-making processes throughout the school community.

### Purpose

- To empower students by providing them with opportunities to contribute to school policies, programs, and activities.
- To foster a sense of ownership, responsibility, and accountability among students for their learning and the overall school environment.
- To enhance communication and collaboration between students, staff, and the wider school community.
- To create a culture that values student voices, ideas, and perspectives.

### Scope

This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for students at Whittlesea Secondary College.

### Definitions

#### Respect:

We respect the rights and opinions of all students, providing a safe and inclusive environment where their voices are heard and valued.

#### Equity:

We ensure that all students, regardless of background or ability, have equal opportunities to participate in the decision-making processes of the school.



## Collaboration:

We promote collaboration and constructive dialogue between students, staff, and stakeholders to create a shared vision for the school.

## Transparency:

We strive to be transparent in our decision-making processes and communicate the outcomes of student input to the broader school community.

## Policy

### Student Representation:

- a. Establish a Student Council/Representative Body comprising students from different year levels and diverse backgrounds.
- b. Hold regular meetings where student representatives can discuss and voice student opinions, concerns, and suggestions.
- c. Ensure that student representatives are selected through fair and transparent processes, involving nominations and elections.

### Communication Channels:

- a. Provide various channels for students to express their opinions and ideas, such as suggestion boxes, online forums, and dedicated email addresses.
- b. Designate a staff member as a liaison to facilitate communication between students and the school administration.
- c. Regularly share updates and outcomes of student input with the student body.

### Curriculum and Learning:

- a. Involve students in curriculum development and review processes, seeking their input on topics, teaching methods, and learning resources.
- b. Encourage student feedback on classroom experiences and implement constructive suggestions to improve teaching and learning practices.
- c. Establish platforms for students to showcase their talents and interests through projects, presentations, and exhibitions.

### School Policies and Rules:

- a. Include student representatives in policy development, review, and revision processes.



- b. Seek student feedback on existing policies, codes of conduct, and rules to ensure they reflect the needs and aspirations of the student body.
- c. Communicate the rationale behind policy decisions to students and involve them in implementing and upholding the policies.

**School Environment:**

- a. Encourage students to participate in the improvement and maintenance of the school's physical environment, including facilities, safety measures, and aesthetics.
- b. Seek student input on school-wide initiatives, such as sustainability practices, community service projects, and cultural celebrations.
- c. Provide opportunities for students to express their concerns about the school environment and take appropriate actions to address them.

**Extracurricular Activities:**

- a. Engage students in the planning, organization, and evaluation of extracurricular activities, clubs, and events.
- b. Support student-led initiatives and clubs by providing resources, guidance, and mentorship.
- c. Recognize and celebrate student achievements and contributions outside the classroom.

**Staff-Student Collaboration:**

- a. Encourage staff members to actively seek student input and feedback in their respective areas of responsibility.
- b. Promote positive and respectful interactions between staff and students, fostering a culture of open communication and mutual understanding.
- c. Provide professional development opportunities for staff to enhance their skills in student engagement.

## Evaluation Period

Policy last reviewed	May 2023
Consultation	May 2023
Approved by	College: Principal Ms Kathy Mourkakos
Next scheduled review date	2026