



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 and Agency 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 College community.

Purpose:

- To empower students by providing them with opportunities to contribute to College 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:

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

Extracurricular Activities:

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

Staff-Student Collaboration:

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

Evaluation Period

Policy last reviewed	May 2023
Consultation	Staff, Community, Leadership Team
Approved by	College Principal Ms Kathy Mourkakos
Next scheduled review date	May 2026