



# Bowman Academy School Council

Created January 2026

## **Aim of the School Council**

The aim of the School Council at Bowman Academy is to ensure that pupil voice is meaningful, valued and has a real impact on school life. The School Council provides pupils with a safe, structured and supportive opportunity to share their views, influence decisions and contribute positively to the school community.

Through the School Council, pupils are supported to develop confidence, responsibility, communication skills and an understanding of democracy, helping to prepare them for life beyond school.

## **What the School Council Looks Like at Bowman Academy**

The School Council is made up of pupil representatives from across the school, ensuring that a range of voices, needs and experiences are represented. Across all classes, one pupil is chosen to represent their class on the School Council. Pupils are supported by staff to take part in meetings, share ideas and communicate the views of their peers.

Meetings are structured, predictable and adapted to meet the needs of our SEMH pupils. This may include the use of visual supports, clear routines, adult facilitation and flexible communication methods to ensure all pupils can engage successfully.

Each class representative has a clear responsibility to listen to their peers and gather their ideas, concerns and queries. These views are then shared and discussed during School Council meetings. The School Council works closely with staff and senior leaders to ensure pupil views are listened to and taken seriously.

## **Impact of the School Council**

The School Council has a positive impact on both pupils and the wider school community. Through their involvement, pupils will:

- Feel listened to and valued
- Develop confidence, self-esteem and leadership skills
- Learn to express views respectfully and work collaboratively
- See real changes happen as a result of their ideas
- Understand the correct ways to behave in a meeting environment
- Get to experience new opportunities
- Get a chance to showcase their skills.

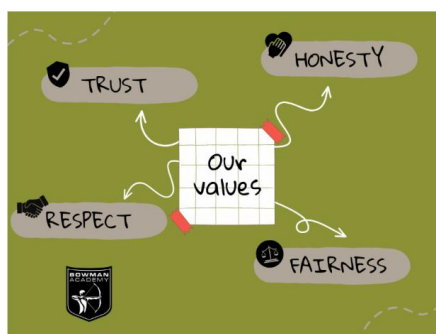
The School Council contributes to improvements in school life, including wellbeing initiatives, rewards, activities and the school environment. The council also supports the school's commitment to British Values, particularly democracy, mutual respect and individual liberty.

## **What School Council Meetings Consist Of**

School Council meetings are held on a regular basis and adhere to a clear, consistent structure. The Council aims to convene once or twice each half term, ensuring ongoing engagement and continuity in pupil participation. The purpose of each meeting can vary, however, to support the structure of meetings, they will often follow a specific format. Meetings typically include:

- Welcome, check-in and attendance taken
- Agendas are discussed with the pupils.
- Any other additional discussions take place and are recorded
- Planning and decision-making for projects or changes
- Agreeing actions and next steps
- Confirming a date for the next meeting

Meetings are kept purposeful and accessible, with opportunities for pupils to contribute in different ways, such as speaking, writing, drawing or using visual prompts. Clear outcomes are agreed so pupils can see how their input leads to action.



## **Commitment to Pupil Voice**

At Bowman Academy, the School Council is not tokenistic. Pupil voice is central to our ethos, and the School Council plays an important role in shaping a positive, inclusive and supportive school environment where pupils feel safe, respected and empowered.

## **School Council: Pupil Expectations**

Being a member of the School Council is a privilege and comes with responsibilities. Council members are expected to uphold the values and ethos of Bowman Academy: trust, honesty, respect, fairness, and responsibility.

### **What We Ask from Our School Council Members**

- Listen to your classmates' ideas, thoughts, and suggestions.
- Help make sure your class feels represented and heard.
- Take part in discussions, share your ideas, and listen to others.
- Be polite and considerate to everyone in meetings.
- Show kindness and be a good example for others.
- Help with projects or activities that improve school life.

**Trust:** Be reliable and do what you say you'll do.

**Honesty:** Be truthful and responsible in your role.

**Respect:** Listen and value everyone's ideas.

**Fairness:** Try and ensure all peers get a chance to be heard.

**Responsibility:** Be proud of your involvement and try your best to help improve our school.

## **School Council: Staff Expectations**

Staff supporting the School Council play a vital role in ensuring it is effective and meaningful. Staff are expected to:

- Facilitate meetings, ensuring they are inclusive, structured, and supportive.
- Encourage pupils to share their ideas and opinions confidently.
- Guide pupils in understanding their roles and responsibilities.
- Record meeting notes, track actions, and ensure follow-up on agreed projects.
- Support problem-solving and decision-making as needed.
- Promote pupil leadership, confidence, and active participation.
- Ensure that the School Council reflects the values and ethos of Bowman Academy

## **Assessing Impact and Monitoring Effectiveness**

As a school we regularly review the impact and effectiveness of the school council. We want to ensure our pupils have an active role in making positive change. To ensure this happens we assess progress. Some ways we do this is by:

- Collecting feedback from pupils and classes about how well their ideas and concerns are being addressed.
- Tracking the completion and outcomes of projects and initiatives suggested by the council.
- Reviewing meeting notes, actions, and follow-ups to ensure council decisions are implemented.
- Evaluating how participation in the council supports pupil development, confidence, and engagement.

## **Key Individuals Supporting the School Council**

The effective running of the School Council is strongly supported by Mr Kirby (Teacher), Mr Rose (Assistant Headteacher), and Mr Ellis (Headteacher). They work closely with pupils and also collaborate with other teachers and teaching assistants across the school to maintain a supportive and engaging environment.