

**St. Robert's Catholic**



**Primary**

**St Robert's Catholic Primary School**

**Ysgol Gynradd Gatholig Sant Robert**

## **Pupil Voice Policy**

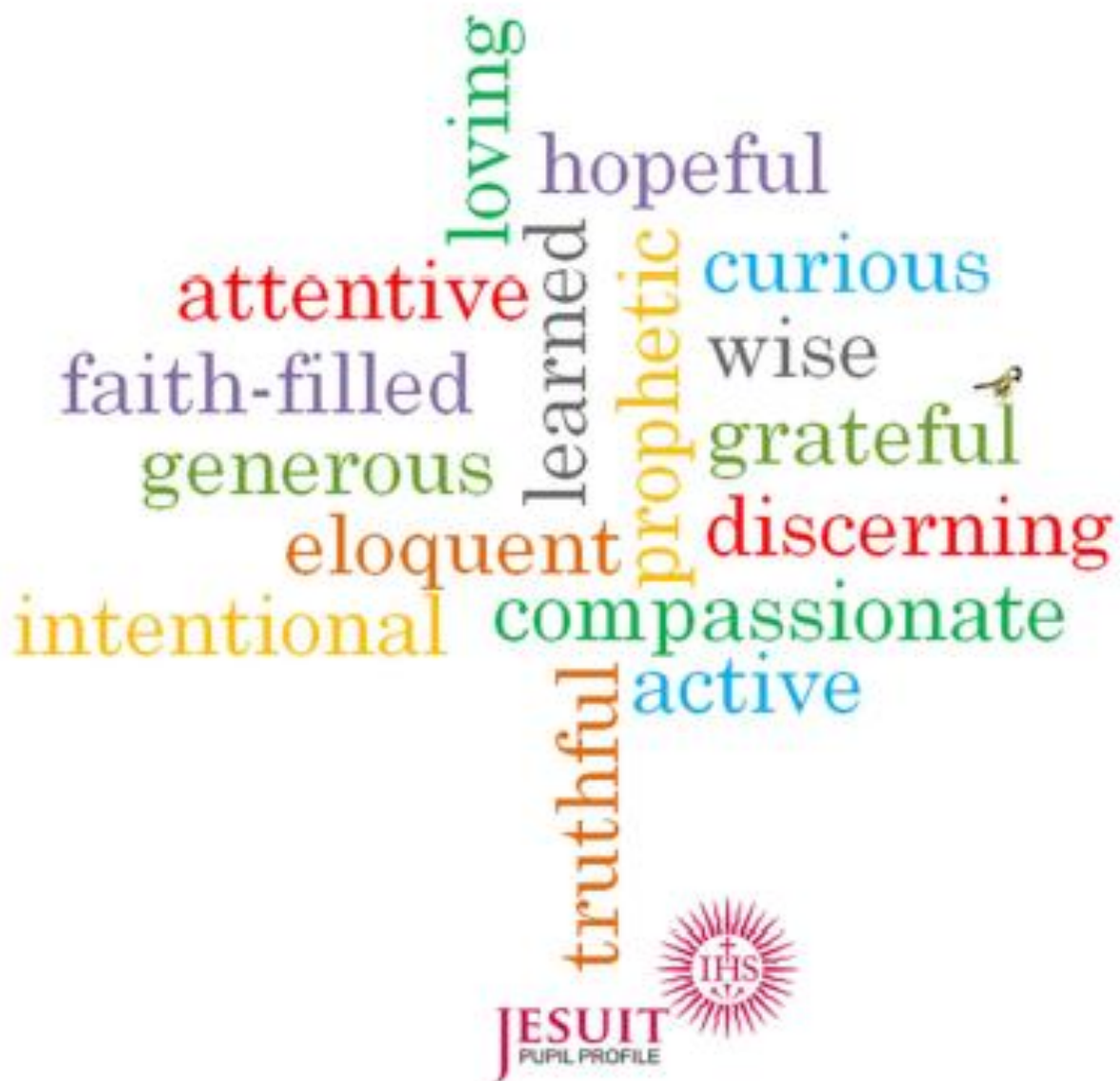
Scope	This policy applies to all stakeholders of the school
Policy Adopted By	Head Teacher and Governing Body
Signed	<i>C Beveridge</i>
Date	Autumn 2023
Date of Review	Autumn 2027

## Mission Statement - 'Jesus in Us' 'Iesu ynom Ni'

*Jesus and the 'Good News' that He brings is the basis of our school life.*

Each person in our school is unique and our intention is that they will be Ambitious, Capable Learners, Ethically, Informed Citizens, Enterprising, Creative Contributors & Healthy, Confident Individuals.

They will be Virtue - led and develop to their full potential - with Jesus as their guide, the Holy Spirit as their inspiration and God as their loving Father.



## **Pupil Participation – A Definition**

The literal definition of participation is 'taking part'. In the context of children and young people's rights, however, Welsh Government state that participation is about children and young people having their voice heard when decisions are being made that affect their lives, and being actively involved in decision-making processes. Pupil involvement and their participation is at the heart of the new Curriculum for Wales. This is reflected in the Core Purposes, which aspires for all pupils to be-

- ambitious, capable learners
- enterprising, creative contributors
- ethical, informed citizens
- healthy, confident individuals

At St. Robert's Pupil Participation is a process rather than an event and it tends to be a more active approach.

It entails pupils having 'direct involvement...in planning, decision-making and implementation of policy and processes' and must be executed as a whole school approach.

Participation implies degrees of ownership and empowerment, and offers opportunities for those participating to develop responsible attitudes and skills.

## **Statement of Commitment**

Staff at St Robert's school are committed to the following:

- The involvement of pupils in regards to decisions about their education is good practice;
- Include pupils in the assessment and monitoring of their own progress;
- Foster a whole school ethos where all pupils are valued and encouraged to express their opinions and take decisions from an early age;
- Recognise that pupil participation can only be a reality in an environment where all staff are valued and involved in decision making affecting the school community;
- Provide training and professional development to assist staff in developing models of good practice that support the inclusion of all pupils;
- Ensure that all pupils are given access to a broad and balanced curriculum, properly resources, with a wide range of opportunities;

- Act as an empathetic guide and advocate for the child, equipping him/her with skills to respect different opinions and cultures;
- Work in partnership with parents whilst, at the same time, exercising sensitivity when pupils' views differ from those of the parents

The school is fully committed to Article 12 of the United Nations Convention Rights of the Child (UNCRC) - "*the child who is capable of forming his or her own views has the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child*".

### **Strategic Aims**

#### **Rationale**

The following principles act as a rationale for the use of pupil participation within St Robert's R.C. Primary School. The school acknowledges that the effective use of pupils' participation leads not only to a greater sense of well being amongst members of the community but also to a rise in standards.

**Entitlement** - Children have the right to participate and to be listened to.

**Empowerment** - All children need to feel that they are valued, important and can make a difference. Being consulted and allowed to make choices from an early age help to develop emotional growth and self-awareness. Directly involving children in their education enhances their engagement and promotes active learning. It helps to ensure that the education they receive is relevant to their needs.

**Equal Opportunities** - Attention must be paid to ensure that children understand what is available to them and make informed choices. The curriculum needs to be properly differentiated and resourced to address pupils' needs and enable them to achieve their full potential. All nine protected categories within the Equality Act 2010 and included within school life.

**Raising Attainment** - Pupils Participation can help raise academic standards. Pupils feel they have ownership of what they learn and how they are able to learn. This ownership motivates children and enables them to work to the best of their ability.

**Democracy** - Involving pupils in decisions about their learning and their educational environment will help prepare them for making important decisions when they are adults. Giving more power to pupils can lead to more motivated and engaged pupils. The use of the school council and other focus groups strengthens pupils' skills of communication, listening, negotiation and peaceful conflict resolution.

**Respect** - Pupil Participation can only flourish in an environment where staff have a shared sense of responsibility for supporting and learning from one another and where young people are encouraged to build collaborative relationships with their peers.

### **Current Provision**

Our pupils are given opportunities to be involved in school decision making in a number of ways:

- Being involved in decision involving their learning e.g. topics, activities and trips.
- Being a member of the School Council, children from Yr.2 to Yr.6 select two representatives on to the School Council. They meet on a regular basis with the Deputy Head Teacher and a designated member of the Governing body. They have focused on such issues as - the School's Anti- Bullying Policy, our Bilingualism policy, consultation on the school uniform, activities/resources for playtimes and lunchtimes, and an End of Year Pupil Questionnaire.
- The Eco Committee - representatives from Yr.2 to Yr.6 and are involved in eco projects and promotes the eco message of Reducing, Reusing and Recycling waste.
- Criw Cymraeg - promote the use of Welsh across the school.
- The Children's Commissioner of Wales' Super Ambassadors - two Year 6 pupils promote the rights of the Child and organise our Rights of the Child Day, leading an Assembly and organising activities for each class.
- Focus groups on particular aspects of School Life - pupils volunteer to be involved with such aspects as, our Behaviour Policy, school resources to enhance learning etc.

- Digital Leaders - to lead matters linked to digital learning: running of coding club; assistance and support with hardware.
- P4C Champions - from Yr.2 upwards - to lead with matters developing P4C throughout the school including: Listening to Learners, Organising P4C Days; Sharing P4C with stakeholders such as parents.
- St Bob's Cogs (Our Community Out Reach Group) Yr. 3 upwards - Catholic Social Action Group. Lead by the Papal Encyclicals of Popo Francis - Laudata Si (caring for God's creation) & Tutti Fratelli (Global Brotherhood).
- Wellbeing Warriors - two from Year 2 upwards. Improve health and wellbeing throughout the school; promote health and wellbeing in the community; passionate about sport, health, creativity and mental health; organise awareness weeks; pupil voice for wellbeing in the school and lead on wellbeing issues and targets.
- Friendship Fixers - Yr.6 - carry out peer mediation on the yard, support dinner supervisors in dealing with fallings out and friendship issues.

### **Resources**

Pupils need to be trained in Pupil Participation and in their rights as a child. This can be carried out through the school council and also through the development of our Curriculum for Wales in particular our RSE scheme of work, which incorporates our Catholic Pupil Profile. Staff have received some initial training and pupil voice will now be part of the school INSET program on a termly basis.

It is essential that time allocated to pupil participation strategies is NOT in pupils own time or seen as a 'bolt on'. It should be an integral part of everyday school life.

### **Inclusion**

St Robert's R.C. Primary School is committed to the inclusion of all pupils and acknowledges that we are all unique and made in the likeness of God. All pupils, no matter their academic ability, gender, ethnic group, home circumstances, age or their behavioural, social and emotional ability, will have the opportunity to participate in pupil voice activities and opportunities.

## **Communication**

All stakeholders are informed appropriately.

- Staff are informed of progress and pupils views through staff meetings, INSET and informal discussions with other staff and pupils;
- Governors are informed during termly governor meetings
- Feedback is given to pupils through discussions with their class teachers and through workshops;
- Dojo notifications & regular newsletters keep parents informed of changes taking place at the school.

Views of all stakeholders are collated in a number of ways;

- Open door policy for all stakeholders who know that they can visit and discuss issues with a member of staff or the Headteacher at any time;
- Use of pupils' questionnaires and in the summer parent questionnaires in order to gain views;
- Listening to learner sessions have opportunity to voice their opinions on the curriculum and the life of the school

## **Policy Review**

The headteacher, in consultation with the staff, pupils, parents and the Governing Body will undertake systematic monitoring and conduct regular reviews of this policy. This will enable to them to evaluate that the operation is effective, fair and consistent. The headteacher will keep all stakeholders informed.

Review Date Nov.23

Headteacher:

School Council Chairperson:

Chairperson of Gov. Body