

Student Voice

The purpose of student voice at Watling Academy is to engage, ignite and enrich the thinking of students, allowing them to have a say in decisions in the Academy that affect them.

Methods of engaging and listening to students include:

- building commitments to the student voice as part of a Watling's strategic plans;
- seeing students as empowered partners;
- creating opportunities for students to organise and lead change through student councils;
- engaging students when designing and reflecting on learning and teaching;
- engaging students when creating opportunities at Watling;
- creating student representative committees.

There are 3 elements to Student Voice at Watling Academy.

1. The Academy and Year Group Councils

After completing cross curricular learning on Democracy students can choose to stand for their Year Group Council. They make a presentation to their class outlining the skills, attributes and policies they have that will make them an ideal student councillor. Democratic class elections are then held to decide the winners.

The student council meet regularly and are supported by a member of the Leadership Team.

2. Satellite groups

Satellite groups look at more specific areas of life at Watling Academy, and in some cases will focus on aspects beyond the Academy. For example, we are setting up a group to work with a school in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Students can opt to become members of Satellite groups. Our most recent satellite group is Eco-Schools, already interest in this group is high and we are looking forward to hearing our student's ideas. Students can set up their own satellite groups by putting forward a proposal for the action group they would like to set up. Students have already asked to set up a fundraising group to support local charities.

Congratulations go out to our first student councillors who have just been elected after a tough campaign and election. Please see 2 of our student's fantastic presentations.

3. Students as Learning Partners

Students are trained to work with teachers to support teaching and learning in the school.

Students are trained to observe a lesson and feedback from a student perspective. After students are trained, they are paired with another student and a teacher. They meet with the teacher to agree a focus for the observation, observe a lesson and then feedback to the teacher.