



Policy on Prefects/Student Care Team/Student Council/Games Committee and Mentors

Aims:

- To afford students the opportunity to play an active part in the corporate life of the school
- To improve communications at all levels between staff, students and parents
- To help create the conditions necessary to develop interpersonal skills.

Implementation:

- Mentors are responsible for helping the transition of 1st years from Primary to our school and will fulfil responsibilities as outlined in Appendix 1.
- Student Council will be formed encompassing representatives from the entire student body. A teacher will facilitate and assist with organisation.
- Prefects will be formed from TY/5th & 6th years who will apply to act as prefects in the school
- Games Committees will also be formed from TY to assist in the running of the school courts at lunch times.

Monitoring:

- Monitored on a regular basis by organising teacher.
- Feedback to staff at staff meetings.

Success Criteria:

- Aims are obtained
- Each student plays an effective role in Moate Community School

Evaluation:

- The Principal and the School Liaison Committee

Review Procedures:

- Reviewed throughout the year
- Overall review in May



Description of each Group

Games Committee

The Games Committee consists of TY students who assist in the promotion of sport in the school. The Committee are responsible for the running of sports games on the courts at lunch time with a particular emphasis on the first years.

A special soccer league is set up for all first years, who form a team from their individual class and play against the other classes. Members of the Games Committee assist each class in picking a team and also refereeing the games.

The Games Committee also run various sporting events throughout the year including but not limited to: Tug of War competitions, Dodge ball competitions, Staff versus Students Basketball, Staff versus Students Soccer, etc.

The Games Committee play an important role in assisting the PE department in the schools' taster programme and open days. This involves the PE department showing the wide range of sporting activities available in the school and the Games Committee helping to show these activities to the primary students.

Student Council

The Council is a representative structure for students. The council works in partnership with school management, staff and parents for the benefit of the school and its students. The role of the student council is:

- To create, in cooperation with the Principal, staff and students, a better school life for the students of our school.
- To provide students with opportunities for leadership and to develop in all students a sense of responsibility.
- To encourage the students in the school to become more aware of how the school is run and to constructively identify and express their needs.
- To act as liaison where appropriate between the students, teaching staff and management.

All students attending our school are deemed eligible to be members of the Student Council. The selection process involves an invitation to all students across all year groups to go forward for student council. If interested they fill out an application form. A student must be proposed and seconded by members of his/her year group. An election will be held in a year group if there are more than five candidates going forward. If there is less than five candidates in a year group they are deemed elected.

The student council meet on a regular basis. A report is sent to management throughout the year.

The student council organise and take part in many events throughout the school year:

- Comhairle na nOg – students attend annual Westmeath Comhairle na nOg conference in Bloomfield House Mullingar. Students then have an opportunity to become Comhairle members and to participate in Dail na nOg.



- Student ID Cards – each year the student council work with ISSU to distribute age cards to the student body. The students distribute application forms, collect the money, organise a suitable day for issue of cards.
- Junior Mayor Initiative – This initiative is run throughout Primary and Secondary schools in the Athlone and Moate municipal district by Westmeath County Council. The members of the student council vote to elect the Junior Mayor. The Junior Mayor participates in many events in the local area such as Athlone Town Council meetings, opening of new sub aqua unit, St Patrick’s Day parades etc. The aim of the Junior Mayor initiative is to give young people a voice and allow them the opportunity to express their interests in local politics.
- Sub-committees – the student council work with other student groups such as Greenschools and Wellbeing committees. Sub-committees are formed when deemed necessary e.g. to carry out wellbeing surveys, to participate in Acardia Creative Climate Awards etc.

Mentor Programme

The mentor programme strives to facilitate and support in every way possible, the transition of incoming first year students to Moate Community School.

Mentors are Responsible for:

First Year Hand Book

- Mentors develop First Year Handbook which provides key information to incoming students prior to their first day at MCS.

First Day Programme

- Mentors develop and implement a programme of activities for first day back to school. This programme is designed to enable students to get to know new classmates and to develop a degree of comfort in their new surroundings before formal classes begin.

Peer Support

- Mentors continue to support and assist first year students in the first weeks of term.

Clubs

- Mentors develop a schedule of weekly clubs, designed to facilitate social integration of all first students.
- Mentors co-ordinate and supervise club activities.

Special Events

- Mentors organise and co-ordinate many events throughout the school year, to promote fun and pride and a sense of belonging in all our new students. First year students are provided with an opportunity to participate in such events as:
 - Halloween/Christmas Party
 - Memorial tree planting
 - Visits to local nursing home
 - Easter Egg Hunt
 - Time capsule

First Year Workshops



- Mentors participate in first year workshops such as Communication, Anti-bullying, Study Skills and Substance Abuse Awareness.

Mentor Training Programmes

- Mentors participate in a series of training workshops designed to support and facilitate their work with first year students.

Mentor Meetings

- Mentors participate in regular meetings to review their work with our new students and to address any issues that may have arisen.
- Mentors participate in meetings to organise numerous events throughout the school year.

First Year Information Evenings

- Mentors attend all first year related events and distribute a specially designed brochure, to promote the programme.

Prefects

- Applications accepted from Transition Year and 5th year students.
- Meetings are held on a fortnightly basis to put a roster of duty in place
- Prefects work on a rotational basis supervising at break and lunch times
- Duties carried out by prefects include: operating one-way system, controlling canteen entrance, controlling queues in canteen, locking rooms and any other duties that may arise.
- Prefects report to teachers on duty at break and lunchtimes.

Student Care Team

- The selection process involves an invitation to all TY students at the beginning of the school year to join the group. Students are informed of the work of the group and if interested they fill out an application form to register their interest. In this form the students rank in numerical order the various activities that they favour becoming involved in throughout the year.
- The range of activities members of the SCT involve themselves in include:
- Weekly Nursing Home visits, weekly St. Hilda's Special school in Athlone visits, local Greenway clean-up, lunchtime games with students in our Uisneach Centre, delivering talks to Junior classes on the Concern Fast and the Christmas Shoe-box Appeal, completing the Pope JohnPaul II Awards by volunteering in their local church & community, working on our Wellbeing & Amber Flag Committee (which promotes mental health & wellbeing in our school), organising the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal, assisting our school's chaplain with organising liturgical events & school masses and First Holy Communion preparation with second class pupils from the two local primary schools.

