



CATHOLIC
EDUCATION
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Student Advisory Council

Frequently Asked Questions



Photos: St Cecilia's Catholic Primary School (Port Hedland), Aranmore Catholic Primary School (Leederville), John Paul College and St Mary's Primary School (Kalgoorlie)

Catholic Education Western Australia Limited

ABN 47 634 504 135



Purpose

These frequently asked questions provide further information surrounding the operation and aim of the Student Advisory Council.

Operational Questions

What is the council's mission and purpose?

The mission and purpose of the Student Advisory Council is to work directly with the Catholic Education Office and the Deputy Executive Director, to gather and discuss initiatives to promote Catholic Education, improve educational practices and enhance the student community system wide.

How are council members selected?

Council Members are selected via an [Application \(Nomination\)](#) and Endorsement process. Students will apply for the council via this Application form and from there, an endorsement will be sent to your Schools Principal for endorsement.

Do I need Parental Permission?

Yes, as this commitment involves once off travel plus time commitments after School Hours, parents should be well informed of your commitment to the council. During the nomination process, a permission form is sent to your parent/caregiver.

What are the roles and responsibilities of council members?

This is listed in our Terms of Reference document, found here: [Terms of Reference](#), however some responsibilities will include participating in discussions, representing students in your School, implementing initiatives in the School and providing feedback.

How often do we meet, and what is the format of the meetings?

Council meetings are held once during each School Term via Microsoft Teams. The meeting duration is 45 minutes and will be after School hours.

What if I cannot make a meeting or miss a meeting?

Please inform the other council members of your absence as soon as possible.

What are the expectations around attendance and engagement?

Students must aim to commit to at least five council meetings.

Is there a process for setting the agenda?

Yes, initial initiatives will be formed by Annette Morey, Executive Director for Catholic Education Western Australia, with the opportunity for additional initiatives and discussion points to be formed via the council in meetings.

Who supports the council's activities?

Your School Principal and a volunteer from the School Leadership Team will provide any additional support needed.



What if I want to leave the council?

Students are able to submit their resignation to the council via written notice.

Topic-Based Questions:

What issues are we currently focusing on?

Some of the issues we are focusing on include the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education and promoting anti-bullying and school safety initiatives. We will also review student health and wellbeing, increasing awareness of vocational education and training (VET) pathways and addressing environmental concerns through technology, climate action and recycling programs.

How can we better advocate for students in policy discussions?

By amplifying student voices through data personal stories and experiences, this presents a more complete picture of student life therefor it can contribute to CEWA policies reflecting the needs of the whole child.

What is our strategy for engaging students in the community?

Our strategy will be promoting inclusive, value-driven events and initiatives that help students see their role as active members of both their faith community and wider society. These opportunities encourage service, stewardship, and leadership inspired by Catholic values.

How do we measure the success of our initiatives?

Success will be measured through feedback from Principals, Teachers and students along with levels of engagement and participation. We will look for signs of growth with compassion, respect and community spirit.

How do we ensure that our council's work is sustainable over time?

Sustainability comes from clear documentation, regular evaluation, ongoing communication and school leadership. This ensures that future students can carry forward the councils' efforts with purpose.

What are some student challenges in our community?

Students today face unique pressures, including social media influence, mental health concerns and academic stress. In Catholic communities, there can also be tension in living out faith in a changing world. Additionally, economic uncertainty and cost of living can impact student wellbeing and access to opportunities.

How can we amplify our message and get more students involved?

By empowering student-led initiatives, encouraging peer collaboration, and offering platforms for feedback and reflection, we create a sense of ownership and mission.