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

About the Council

What is the CEWA Student Advisory Council?

The CEWA Student Advisory Council gives students an opportunity to share their perspectives, experiences and ideas about a range of topics directly with Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA).

Council members work with CEWA and the Deputy Executive Director to discuss matters important to students, provide feedback on CEWA priorities and contribute ideas to strengthen Catholic education and the student experience.

Who can apply?

Students who will be in Years 7–11 during the Council term and are enrolled at a CEWA school can apply. CEWA aims to establish a Council that reflects the diversity of students across its four dioceses, including metropolitan, regional and remote communities.

How are Council members selected?

Students apply through the Student Advisory Council application process.

Applications are considered based on the student's interest in contributing, ability to participate, and the overall diversity and representation of the Council.

Principal endorsement and parent/caregiver consent are required before an application can be considered.

Successful applicants are appointed by the Deputy Executive Director.

What will I do as a Council member?

Council members will:

- share their perspectives, experiences and ideas;
- discuss issues and opportunities affecting students;
- provide feedback on CEWA priorities and initiatives;
- contribute ideas and recommendations; and
- seek and share the views of other students where appropriate.

Members are not expected to speak on behalf of every CEWA student.

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

The Council will generally meet twice each semester via Microsoft Teams. Meetings will usually be held after school and run for approximately 45 minutes.

Meeting dates will be provided in advance. There is one meeting per term for a total of eight meetings.

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

Council members are expected to make a reasonable commitment to attending and participating in meetings.

If you are unable to attend, please notify the Council Executive Officer as soon as possible.

What topics might the Council consider?

Topics may include:

- student wellbeing and safety;
- emerging technology and artificial intelligence;
- learning and future pathways;
- diversity and inclusion;
- sustainability;
- student engagement; and
- Catholic identity and mission.

Topics may change throughout the term as new issues and opportunities emerge through council discussions.

Who supports the council's activities?

The Deputy Executive Director chairs the Council, supported by the Executive Officer.

A staff member nominated by the student's school may also provide support where required

Will CEWA use my photograph or information?

Council members may be photographed, have their school photo displayed or be recorded as part of Council activities.

With parent/caregiver consent, a student's name, photograph, video footage and Council biography may be used by CEWA for communication, promotional and marketing purposes, including CEWA websites, social media, LinkedIn, publications and other communication materials.

What if I no longer want to participate?

Students may resign from the Council by providing written notice to the Executive Officer for consideration by the Deputy Executive Director. Students are encouraged to discuss any concerns about their participation before making this decision.

What happens if a Council member leaves before the end of their term?

If a Council member leaves before the end of their term, the Deputy Executive Director may appoint another eligible student to fill the vacant place, taking into account the diversity and representation of the Council. Principal endorsement and parent/caregiver consent are required.

Where can I find more information?

Further information about the Council, including the Terms of Reference, is available on the CEWA Student Advisory Council webpage or by contacting governance@cewa.edu.au.