

Characteristics of an effective school council

- Pupils should be supported to understand their role as **representatives** of other members of the school. This may involve choosing who is on the school council through elections or some other fair, open and informed process
- Members should represent the variety and **diversity** that can be found across the whole school and should not just consist of the most able, confident pupils
- School councils should be **embedded** into the ethos of the school and this can be greatly supported by having regular (protected) times for their meetings in a designated space
- There should be a high level of **awareness** across the school of what the school council does
- School councils will fail if they become just a talking shop – there has to be frequent opportunities for pupils to take **action** and bring about change on issues they feel are important
- There should be visible **support** from the head and the rest of the senior management team showing that they respect and value the role that the school council plays
- There needs to be a shared **commitment** across the school to promote and support the school council – this cannot be the task of just one person
- School councils can prosper if given a budget and **resources** to take forward actions and achieve their goals
- School councils need to be part of a **whole school** approach to give pupils a voice and involving everyone in the running of the school.