



St Mark's Elm Tree Primary School

School Parliament Policy

Approved by Governors

**Reviewed September 2016
To be reviewed September 2018**

Mission Statement

At St Mark's Elm Tree Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School we will:

- Welcome everyone
- Build Christian values and worship into our teaching
- Establish strong links between home, school and community
- Endeavour to reach our full potential and celebrate our achievements
- Care for, encourage and respect each other
- Support each other to stay safe, healthy and make a positive contribution to our world.

Our school is a place where every person has the right to be themselves and to belong and learn in a safe and happy environment. Everyone at our school is equal and treats each other with respect and kindness. We do not tolerate bullying.

It is our belief at St Mark's, Elm Tree that all pupils – irrespective of ability, personality, race or class – should feel valued and safe within a caring school community. All children bring their experiences and feelings about the world around them into the classroom. It is our belief that in having a School Parliament, children will have the opportunity to share and begin to explore these feelings and opinions within a safe structure. It is important that children develop a sense of partnership and ownership about the many issues that are raised in school life, our school will function as an active co-operative community; where pupils understand they can make a valuable contribution.

Objectives for setting up School Parliament:

- ◆ Our school is a community
- ◆ Pupils become partners in their own education, making a positive contribution to the school environment and ethos
- ◆ Children learn to listen to others and to recognise themselves as worthwhile individuals with a right to be heard
- ◆ Children learn self-confidence, social skills and morally responsible behaviour towards each other and towards their teachers and other adults
- ◆ Pupil councils enhances the influence of positive peer leadership

- ◆ Contributing to their class and school community allows children to grow in self-esteem
- ◆ Every child learns from personal experience how to contribute to society as a whole and what it means to be an active citizen.

(Adapted from Primary School Councils UK 2000)

School Parliament at St Mark's, Elm Tree

Members of council

The school council will consist of the following:

- ◆ Each class from Year 1 will be represented
- ◆ Two representatives per class: one boy, one girl
- ◆ 1 Nominated Governor
- ◆ A Link Teacher

Meetings

The council will usually meet once every half term – for about 30 minutes depending on issues or needs.

Representation to the council:

- ◆ Children will nominate themselves for election to the council. A democratic election will take place in each class. Children will vote for one boy and one girl to represent them on the council.
- ◆ All children have the right to stand for election. However, through worship, rules for appropriate behaviour of a councillor will be developed. If a councillor displays inappropriate behaviour, they will be given one warning and then asked to resign from office. The Head Teacher or Link Teacher only can carry out this sanction.
- ◆ The commitment to office is for one year. However, if a child wants to resign, they can only do so at the end of the term. They must produce a letter of resignation with parental consent. The relevant class will then elect a new representative.
- ◆ If no one wants to stand, that class will receive written feedback from a designated council member.
- ◆ Nursery, Reception and Year 1: a designated councillor will give the class teacher feedback on issues raised at council meetings. It will be at the discretion of the teacher how the issues are raised in class. The teacher will give brief summary notes back to council when appropriate.

Parliament councillors will be involved in setting an Action Plan which will be shared with all staff.