



**Buckinghamshire  
College Group**

# **Student Voice Strategy 2023-25**

Responsible Officer:	Head of Student Services
Date Reviewed:	June 2023
Next Review Date:	June 2025
Policy Available:	Intranet, Cloud and Website
Authorised by:	Executive and Curriculum & Quality Committee

## **Student Voice Strategy**

### **Vision Statement**

At Buckinghamshire College Group we value diversity and the opinions and contributions of others acting with kindness and respect for all. We are committed to consulting with our students on all aspects of the organisation, including teaching and learning, facilities, support services and overall strategic direction. These practices enable student voices to be heard at every level within the College, making a valuable contribution to its leadership and in raising the quality of its provision and working towards our shared values and goals of resilient, adaptive and creative students.

### **Scope**

It is our intention that all students have an equal voice and we aim to provide a variety of feedback methods through which they may exercise that voice. We are focused to ensure our students have a well-rounded College experience which includes activities and events that will enrich their experience.

### **Context**

The need to engage students is already well established with the 2007 White Paper “Raising Skills, Improving Life Chances” (DCSF, 2007) and the Education Inspection Framework (Ofsted, 2019) promoting the use of users’ views as important aspects of self-assessment and improvement. In addition to this, we recognise that a sense of control over their lives is an important factor in building resilience in young people, and therefore we strive to give our students the opportunity to develop the skills needed to exercise such control in the safe environment of College. Strong communication skills are a key element to expressing one’s thoughts and opinions, and this links with our intention to develop students with good work readiness skills and effective communication.

### **Objectives:**

- To build an active Student Engagement Team (SET) that will lead and be the voice of their peers at all levels.
- To equip our students with the communication skills needed to enable them to voice their opinions on a range of topics.
- To provide a range of opportunities for students to provide feedback on all aspects of College provision.
- To establish a range of inclusive opportunities for students’ voices to be heard, at both the individual and group level, in order to ensure the services and facilities provided by the College meet the students’ needs.
- Involve students in decision making at all levels so that decisions affecting students are informed by students.
- Ensure staff are able to support the ethos of Student Involvement and where appropriate are trained to work collaboratively with students to create a culture of student involvement within the College.
- To ensure all students are able to participate fully in Student Voice activities so that the range of views is balanced and representative of the whole College community.
- To ensure students are involved in the review and development of College policies and procedures ensuring that they are relevant, appropriate and accessible to students.

## **Activities**

There will be a range of activities, designed and timed to capture the views of students from all areas of the College, both full and part time. Student Voice activities will provide both formal and informal opportunities for students to engage with College staff at all levels of the organisation as appropriate based on the needs and abilities of the students.

The Student Engagement Team will work collaboratively with the curriculum teams and the Progress Coaches at their respective campuses to promote, organise and deliver the agreed Student Voice activities.

The Student Voice will be fed back to the governing body by Student Governors and the Student Engagement Team.

- A calendar of activities will be led by the Student Services team annually, examples of activities include:
  - Recruiting and launching the Student Engagement Team (SET)
  - Student Engagement Team Conference which will be led by the Student Governors
  - Student Rep Meetings which be led by the Head of Students Services on a range of topics
  - Student Focus groups which are led by student leads on topical themes
  - Students will take an active part in recruitment of teachers and Managers

Most activities will take place at each site, however, some cross campus activities will be delivered on one site for students from all sites.

## **Student Engagement Team (SET)**

All students are part of the student union however students will be invited to apply for various roles within the SET.

## **Student Governor**

All students who will be returning for the following academic year are eligible to make an application to become a Student Governor. Once applications are received they will be reviewed by the Head of Student Services and the Assistant Principal for Student Engagement and Support.

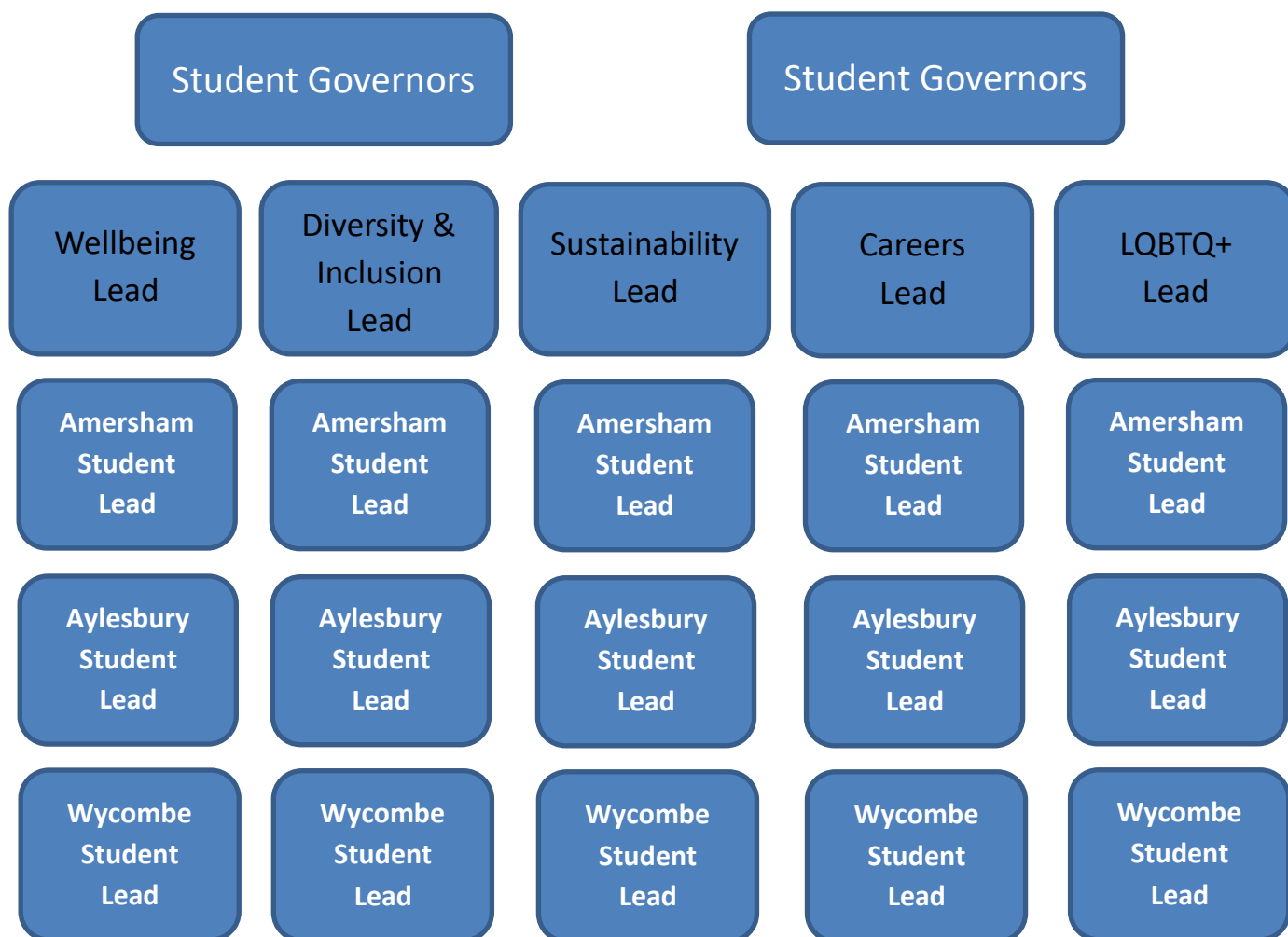
An online voting form will then be sent to all students to vote. The two students with the highest votes will be elected as Student Governors.

## **Student Lead**

At the start of the academic year all students will be invited to apply for one of the lead focus roles, there will be five cross College roles and fifteen campus specific roles (see structure below – Appendix A). Applicants will be interviewed by the Assistant Principal for Student Engagement and Support and the Student Governors.

## Appendix A

### The Students Engagement Team structure



### **Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation**

The Student Governors and Head of Student Services will jointly produce a termly report detailing the feedback received from students across the College during the period and highlighting key areas for action and updates as appropriate. Managers across the College will be asked to contribute to these reports by responding with actions taken/planned in respect of student comments. These reports will be provided to students via online noticeboards and Class Rep meetings under the banner of "You said, we actioned" and will provide clear responses to issues and ideas raised.

The strategy and associated action plan will be reviewed jointly between College staff and students during the summer term each year, so that methods may be evaluated for effectiveness and efficiency.

## Equality Impact Statement

We have a duty to consider the impact of changes on groups with Protected Characteristics (race, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership).

What are the overall aims of the change? Why are you proposing it?	The aim of this policy is to provide a framework to ensure that the guidelines are in place to support all stakeholders
Given the aims of your proposal, what issues does your data/information highlight?	Everybody is included within this strategy, and all groups are given parity in regards to their needs and provisions
How could the proposed change affect positively/negatively on groups with protected characteristics?	This has a positive impact on all groups with protected characteristics, as they are ensured equal treatment and provision based on their needs. Risk assessments may be carried out to ensure that this is the case and provisions maybe altered to accommodate specific needs
What actions will you take to mitigate any negative impact?	No negative impact to having this strategy
Is there any potential negative impact justified in light of wider benefits of the proposal?	No negative impact to having this strategy
Recording final decision	This strategy requires Executive and Corporation approval
Has the policy taken into consideration the requirements of GDPR regulations? Are there any actions that need addressing, e.g.; data sharing agreement; has data consent been considered; data retention timescales?	GDPR regulations have been considered and actions comply with data protection requirements.