



**Buckinghamshire  
College Group**

# **Student Voice Strategy 2021-23**

Responsible Officer:  
Date Reviewed:  
Next Review Date:  
Policy Available:  
Authorised by:

Head of Student Services  
June 2021  
June 2023  
Intranet, Cloud and Website  
Executive

## **Student Voice Strategy**

### **Vision Statement**

Buckinghamshire College Group is committed to consulting with its 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 aim of resilient, adaptive and creative students.

### **Scope**

The College is diverse, and includes full and part-time students on both Further and Higher Education courses, at all college sites, as well as apprentices, work-based students and part time adult students. 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. A full list of the activities which students may participate in is available on Cloud.

### **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 employability skills and effective communication.

### **Objectives:**

- To equip our students with the communication skills needed to enable them to voice their opinion 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 have input from 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.

There will be a Student Union Executive body, which shall comprise of a Student President and a Vice President for each campus. The Student Executive may elect to add additional roles to this body following a vote at a quorate Student Executive meeting. This curriculum teams will work collaboratively with the Careers Coaches at their respective campus to promote, organise and deliver the agreed Student Voice activities.

A calendar of activities will be led by the Student Services team annually and will include the following activities as standard:

- Student Union Executive Elections
- Student Rep Elections
- Student Rep Training
- Student Rep Meetings – Curriculum
- Student Rep Meetings - Campus
- ‘Your say’ Stands
- Adult Focus Groups Lunch and Evening Surgeries
- Teacher and Manager interviews
- Impact Week discussions
- HE Forum
- Programme Committee meetings
- Suggestion boxes

All activities will take place at each site.

In addition to the standard activities listed above, there will be further opportunities for students to be involved in the decision making processes within College as and when they arrive. For example, during staff recruitment, we may involve students in the ‘microteach’ element for teaching staff, or for more senior roles, we may include a student interview panel as part of the process.

Further information relating to regular events, including frequency, attendees and lead staff members can be found in Appendix A.

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

The Student Presidents 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 Cloud, noticeboards at each site 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.

Sources: DCSF (2007), ‘ Raising Skills, Improving Life Chances’

## **Appendix A**

### **Student Voice Activities**

<b>Activity/Event</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Lead by</b>	<b>Attendees</b>
Student Union Executive Elections	Annually	Application	Head of Student Services/Careers Coach	Open to all students
Student Rep Elections	Annually	Voting – in class	CMs	Open to all students
Student Rep Training	Annually	Online/Face to Face	Head of Student Services	All class reps
Student Rep Meetings - Curriculum	Half termly	Standard meeting format	CM	All class reps for area
Student Rep Meetings - Campus	Half termly	Campus based	Head of Student Services/Student Presidents	All campus class reps
Adult Focus Groups	Half termly	Meetings held at lunchtime and evening	Head of Student Services	Any evening student
Parent Focus Groups	Termly	Campus based	Head of Student Services	Parents/Carers
Teaching staff interviews	As needed	Microteach	ED Human Resources	Selected students
Manager interviews	As needed	Interview Panel or Q&A session	ED Human Resources and EDSS	Selected students
Impact Week discussions	5 weeks annually	As part of Learning Walks	Senior Observation team	Students in lessons
HE Forum	Termly	Meeting chaired by HE Lead	Senior Lead for HE	Relevant staff & students
Programme Committee meetings	2 per year	Meetings	Course Leaders	Student reps HE staff
College Newsletters	1 per term	Hard Copy via email	Head of Student Services	All Students/Parents/Carers

## 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 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.