



The  
Grammar  
School  
Nicosia



# STUDENT COUNCIL POLICY

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# STUDENT COUNCIL CONSTITUTION, ELECTION POLICY AND CODE OF CONDUCT

## Purpose

The Student Council serves as the official representative body of The Grammar School's student community.

The Council promotes student engagement, leadership, responsibility, citizenship, cooperation, respect, and positive communication between students and the School Administration.

The Student Council provides students with opportunities to develop leadership skills, contribute positively to school life, organise activities and events, promote student welfare, and encourage active participation in the school community.

The Student Council operates within the framework of the School's Internal Regulations, the Private Schools Law 147(I)/2019 of the Republic of Cyprus, and the principles governing student representation established by the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth.

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## 1 Objectives

The objectives of the Student Council are to:

- a) Promote leadership, responsibility, integrity, accountability, and ethical conduct among students.
- b) Encourage active participation in school life, extracurricular activities, and community service initiatives.
- c) Foster a positive, respectful, inclusive, and supportive school environment.
- d) Represent student concerns, suggestions, and ideas to the School Administration.
- e) Promote cooperation among students, teachers, administrators, parents, and the wider school community.
- f) Propose and organise approved cultural, educational, social, charitable, environmental, and sporting activities.
- g) Encourage volunteerism, social responsibility, and civic engagement.

- h) Promote school spirit, school values, and pride in The Grammar School community.
  - i) Support initiatives that contribute to student wellbeing, personal growth, and positive relationships.
  - j) Encourage constructive dialogue, mutual respect, and responsible citizenship.
  - k) Act as role models who demonstrate exemplary behaviour, respect, responsibility, leadership, and commitment to the values of the School.
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## 2 Status, Role And Authority Of The Student Council

The Student Council serves in an advisory, representative, and consultative capacity.

The Student Council may:

- Submit proposals and recommendations to the School Administration.
- Raise student concerns and suggestions.
- Participate in discussions regarding student life and school culture.
- Organise approved activities, campaigns, projects, and events.
- Promote student welfare, engagement, and inclusion.
- Encourage positive student participation and leadership.

The Student Council shall work collaboratively with the Headmaster, School Administration, teaching staff, parents, and students to promote the welfare and continuous improvement of school life.

The Student Council does not possess executive, disciplinary, financial, employment, governance, or policy-making authority.

All decisions concerning school governance, policy, curriculum, staffing, finances, student discipline, health and safety, risk management, and school operations remain under the authority of the Headmaster, School Management, and Board of Directors.

The Headmaster retains final authority to approve, modify, postpone, suspend, or cancel any Student Council activity, initiative, event, campaign, proposal, publication, or project.

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### 3 Composition Of The Student Council

The Student Council shall consist of:

- President
- The 2 Senior Prefects (ex-officio)
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Council Members

The number of Council Members may be determined annually by the School Administration according to the needs of the School.

The Student Council shall be elected annually.

The School reserves the right to determine the structure, composition, and number of representatives required for the effective operation of the Student Council.

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### 4 Eligibility For Candidacy

Student Council positions are positions of trust, leadership, and responsibility.

Students wishing to stand for election are expected to meet the following leadership standards established by The Grammar School.

The Elections Committee and School Administration reserve the right to consider individual circumstances and exceptional cases when determining eligibility.

#### 4.1 Academic Performance

Candidates are expected to demonstrate strong academic commitment and achievement.

As a general guideline, candidates should have achieved an average academic performance of approximately 80% during the previous two academic years.

Exceptional cases may be considered by the Elections Committee and School Administration.

#### 4.2 Conduct and Character

Candidates must demonstrate exemplary conduct and behaviour.

Students must:

- Respect school rules and regulations.
- Demonstrate honesty and integrity.
- Show respect towards teachers, staff, fellow students, and visitors.
- Demonstrate maturity and responsibility.
- Serve as positive role models within the School community.

Students with serious disciplinary records during the current or previous academic year may be deemed ineligible.

### 4.3 Attendance

Candidates are expected to demonstrate regular attendance and active participation in school life.

As a general guideline, candidates should have fewer than eighty (80) absences during the previous academic year, except where absences are justified by medical, family, educational, or other exceptional circumstances approved by the School Administration.

### 4.4 Leadership Potential

Candidates should demonstrate:

- Initiative
- Responsibility
- Communication skills
- Cooperation
- Problem-solving abilities
- Commitment to improving school life
- Respect for diversity and inclusion
- Ability to work collaboratively with others

### 4.5 Administrative Obligations

Students seeking elected office are expected to comply with the administrative obligations and requirements of the School.

Any exceptional circumstances shall be reviewed confidentially and fairly by the School Administration.

## 4.6 School Standing

Candidates must be students in good standing with the School and must maintain this status throughout their term of office.

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## 5 Candidate Interview

All candidates may be invited to participate in a leadership interview before an Elections Committee appointed by the School.

The purpose of the interview is to assess:

- Leadership qualities
- Communication skills
- Commitment to school values
- Understanding of the responsibilities of office
- Proposed ideas for improving school life
- Readiness to serve as a representative of the student body

The interview process shall be conducted fairly, consistently, and without discrimination.

The purpose of the interview is developmental and evaluative, focusing on leadership readiness and suitability for office rather than academic selection alone.

The Elections Committee may provide recommendations regarding candidate suitability.

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## 6 Election Procedures

All Student Council elections shall be conducted fairly, transparently, respectfully, and in accordance with the principles of democratic participation.

Voting shall be conducted by secret ballot.

The School Administration shall appoint an Elections Committee to supervise and administer the election process.

The Elections Committee shall be responsible for:

- Verifying eligibility

- Supervising nominations
- Monitoring campaign activities
- Conducting voting procedures
- Counting votes
- Announcing results
- Addressing procedural concerns

The decision of the Elections Committee, subject to review by the Headmaster, shall be final.

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## 7 Campaign Regulations

The election process shall be conducted in a respectful, fair, professional, and educational manner.

### 7.1 Campaign Duration

The official campaign period shall last two (2) school days unless otherwise determined by the School Administration.

### 7.2 Approved Campaign Materials

Candidates may only use campaign materials approved by the Elections Committee.

Only one approved campaign banner per candidate may be displayed in designated areas.

The following are prohibited unless specifically authorised:

- Posters
- Flyers
- Stickers
- Promotional merchandise
- Campaign clothing
- Gifts
- Giveaways
- Incentives of any kind

### 7.3 Conduct During Campaigning

Candidates must:

- Demonstrate respect and sportsmanship.
- Focus on their own qualifications, leadership qualities, and ideas.
- Conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on the School.

The following are prohibited:

- Negative campaigning
- Personal attacks
- Harassment
- Defamation
- Intimidation
- Bullying
- Spreading rumours
- Misrepresentation of facts
- Offensive language
- Disruptive behaviour

### 7.4 Political Neutrality

The Student Council shall remain independent from political parties, political movements, nationalist organisations, and ideological groups.

Candidates may not use political affiliations, political endorsements, or political campaigning as part of the election process.

Any candidate whose campaign becomes associated with organised political activity may be subject to disciplinary review and possible disqualification.

### 7.5 Social Media Conduct

All election-related online activity must reflect the values and expectations of The Grammar School.

Candidates are responsible for content published on:

- Social media platforms

- Messaging applications
- Online forums
- Websites
- Digital communications

The School reserves the right to review publicly available election-related content to ensure compliance with these Regulations.

Any online behaviour that:

- Harasses others
- Promotes hostility
- Damages the reputation of individuals
- Brings the School into disrepute
- Violates school policies

may result in disciplinary action or disqualification.

## 7.6 Classroom Disruption

Campaigning may not interfere with:

- Teaching
- Learning
- School operations
- Scheduled activities

Campaign activities during lessons are strictly prohibited unless specifically authorised.

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## 8 Election Violations

The following may result in warnings, sanctions, suspension of campaign privileges, or disqualification:

- Bribery
- Vote-buying
- Gifts or incentives

- Intimidation
- Threats
- Harassment
- Bullying
- False information
- Academic misconduct
- Serious disciplinary violations
- Breach of campaign regulations
- Social media misconduct
- Failure to follow instructions of the Elections Committee

The School Administration reserves the right to determine appropriate sanctions.

The decision of the Headmaster shall be final.

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## 9 Duties Of The Student Council President

The President shall:

### 9.1 Student Leadership

- Lead and coordinate the Student Council.
- Promote responsible student leadership.
- Encourage active student participation.

### 9.2 Events and Activities

Lead the planning and implementation of:

- Cultural events
- Sports activities
- Charity initiatives
- Awareness campaigns
- Community projects
- School celebrations

### 9.3 Student Wellbeing

- Promote a safe and inclusive environment.
- Encourage respect and belonging.
- Support initiatives that improve student welfare.

### 9.4 Representation

- Serve as the primary student representative.
- Communicate student concerns respectfully to School officials.
- Present student suggestions and recommendations.

### 9.5 Meetings

- Chair Student Council meetings.
- Ensure orderly discussion.
- Promote constructive dialogue.

### 9.6 Role Model

The President shall serve as an example of:

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Integrity
- Professionalism
- Academic commitment
- Positive citizenship

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## 10 Removal From Office

A Student Council member may be removed from office if:

- Academic performance declines significantly.
- Attendance becomes unsatisfactory.
- Serious disciplinary issues arise.
- School regulations are violated.

- Conduct is deemed inconsistent with the expectations of office.
- The student fails to fulfil the responsibilities of the position.

Before removal from office, the student shall normally be informed of the concerns raised and be given an opportunity to respond, unless the circumstances involve serious misconduct requiring immediate action.

The decision of the School Administration shall be final.

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## 11 Vacancies

In the event of resignation, removal, transfer, withdrawal, or inability to serve:

- The next eligible candidate may be appointed.
  - A by-election may be conducted.
  - The School Administration may determine the most appropriate procedure.
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## 12 Student Rights

The Student Council shall operate in a manner that respects the dignity, rights, wellbeing, and welfare of all students.

Students shall have the right to:

- Participate fairly in elections.
- Express opinions respectfully.
- Submit suggestions and concerns through appropriate channels.
- Be treated fairly and without discrimination.
- Participate in Student Council activities in accordance with School regulations.

Nothing in this Policy shall limit the authority of the School to maintain discipline, safety, order, educational standards, and the wellbeing of the School community.

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## 13 Election Day Procedures

All Student Council elections shall be conducted in a fair, transparent, orderly, respectful, and democratic manner, consistent with the principles governing Student Council elections under the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth of the Republic of Cyprus and the Internal Regulations of The Grammar School.

### 13.1 Appointment of the Elections Committee

The School Administration shall appoint an Elections Committee responsible for supervising and administering the election process.

The Elections Committee shall:

- Oversee the election process.
- Ensure compliance with School Regulations.
- Verify candidate eligibility.
- Supervise voting procedures.
- Monitor fairness and transparency.
- Count votes and certify results.
- Address procedural concerns and election-related issues.

The Elections Committee shall act impartially and in the best interests of the school community.

### 13.2 Election Preparation

Prior to Election Day:

- Eligible candidates shall be officially confirmed by the Elections Committee.
- Students shall be informed of the election procedures and expectations.
- Voting locations and times shall be announced.
- Ballots shall be prepared and approved by the Elections Committee.
- Measures shall be implemented to ensure secrecy and fairness of voting.

### 13.3 Right to Vote

All students eligible under the School's Internal Regulations shall have the right to vote. Voting shall be conducted without discrimination, intimidation, pressure, interference, or improper influence.

No student shall attempt to influence, pressure, threaten, reward, or coerce another student in relation to voting decisions.

### 13.4 Secret Ballot

Voting shall take place by secret ballot.

Students shall cast their votes individually and privately.

The secrecy of each student's vote shall be respected and protected at all times.

Any attempt to reveal, record, photograph, or interfere with a student's vote may result in disciplinary action.

### 13.5 Conduct During Voting

The election environment shall remain respectful, calm, and orderly.

The following are prohibited during voting:

- Campaigning within the voting area.
- Distribution of campaign materials.
- Attempts to influence voters.
- Political slogans or demonstrations.
- Harassment or intimidation.
- Disruptive behaviour.
- Recording or photographing ballots.

Only students who are voting and authorised School personnel may be present in designated voting areas unless otherwise approved by the School Administration.

### 13.6 Election Monitors and Supervision

Members of the Elections Committee and authorised staff members shall supervise the voting process.

The School Administration reserves the right to appoint additional supervisors where necessary to ensure fairness, safety, and compliance with School Regulations.

Supervisors shall provide guidance and assistance without influencing the outcome of the election.

### 13.7 Counting of Votes

Following the conclusion of voting:

- Ballots shall be collected and secured by the Elections Committee.
- Votes shall be counted fairly and accurately.
- The counting process shall be conducted under the supervision of authorised personnel.
- Any ballot that is unclear, damaged, contains identifying marks, contains inappropriate content, or does not clearly indicate voter intent may be declared invalid by the Elections Committee.

The decision of the Elections Committee regarding ballot validity shall be final, subject to review by the Headmaster.

### 13.8 Announcement of Results

Election results shall be announced following the completion and verification of vote counting.

The School Administration reserves the right to delay publication of results if concerns arise regarding:

- Election integrity.
- Procedural irregularities.
- Complaints or appeals.
- Student welfare considerations.

Results become official only after approval by the School Administration.

### 13.9 Election Complaints and Appeals

Any candidate who believes that a significant procedural irregularity has occurred may submit a written complaint to the Elections Committee within the timeframe determined by the School Administration.

Complaints must:

- Be submitted in writing.
- Clearly describe the concern.
- Include any available supporting information or evidence.

The Elections Committee shall review the matter and provide recommendations to the Headmaster.

The Headmaster shall determine the appropriate course of action.

The decision of the Headmaster shall be final.

### Election Irregularities

Where serious violations, misconduct, procedural irregularities, safety concerns, or breaches of School Regulations are identified, the School Administration reserves the right to:

- Issue warnings.
- Invalidate specific votes.
- Disqualify candidates.
- Suspend election activities.
- Conduct a recount.
- Order a re-election.
- Take disciplinary action where appropriate.

The School Administration retains full authority to take any action deemed necessary to preserve the integrity, fairness, safety, and educational purpose of the election process.

### 13.10 Tie Results

In the event of a tie between candidates, a second round of voting may be conducted.

Where a tie remains after a second vote, the School Administration may determine an alternative fair procedure, including a supervised draw, in accordance with the principles of fairness and transparency.

### 13.11 Record Keeping

Election records, including ballots, vote counts, complaints, and official election documentation, may be retained by the School Administration for a reasonable period following the election for administrative and procedural purposes.

Access to election records shall remain subject to School confidentiality, safeguarding, and data protection requirements.

### 13.12 Respect for Democratic Participation

All students, candidates, staff members, and participants are expected to respect the democratic nature of the election process.

The Student Council election is intended to serve as an educational experience that promotes leadership, responsibility, citizenship, fairness, mutual respect, and active participation within the School community.

## 14 Final Authority

The interpretation, implementation, amendment, and enforcement of this Policy shall remain the responsibility of the Headmaster and School Management.

The School reserves the right to amend these Regulations whenever necessary to maintain the effective operation of the Student Council and the wellbeing of the School community.

These Regulations form part of the Internal Regulations of The Grammar School and shall be binding upon all candidates, elected representatives, and students participating in Student Council elections.

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## 15 Compliance With Cyprus Educational Legislation

These Regulations have been adopted in accordance with the provisions of the Private Schools Law 147(I)/2019, the approved Internal Regulations of The Grammar School Nicosia, and the principles governing Student Councils in schools operating under the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth of the Republic of Cyprus.

The Regulations are intended to reflect the principles governing Student Councils while taking into consideration the educational philosophy, operational structure, values, standards, and specific needs of The Grammar School Nicosia.

The School reserves the right to establish additional leadership standards, behavioural expectations, election procedures, and operational requirements appropriate to its educational philosophy and organisational structure, provided that such provisions do not conflict with applicable legislation.

Where these Regulations are silent, the School Administration may refer to the relevant principles, regulations, and practices applicable to Student Councils operating under the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth.

The Student Council shall at all times operate in a manner consistent with the mission, vision, values, safeguarding responsibilities, and educational objectives of The Grammar School Nicosia.