

LCHS General Assembly

Purpose

The General Assembly occupies a central position as one of the chief deliberative and representative organs of the student body. Comprising the School Council, Year Councils and EAL Council, it provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of student issues.

Functions and powers of the General Assembly

The General Assembly may:

- Consider and make recommendations on any whole school issue that affects students;
- Discuss any question relating to student experience in school and make recommendations on it;
- Consider and provide constructive criticism regarding proposals pertaining to student experience at school;
- Invite ‘Chairs’ of various meetings to explain and account for any decisions and actions taken;
- Initiate studies, discuss and make recommendations regarding school policies;
- Request and consider reports from the Governors, Head Teacher, Strategic Leadership Group or any other decision making body within school;
- Consider and recommend school responses to student behaviour in school or in the local community

While the General Assembly is empowered to make only non-binding recommendations to decision making bodies within the school, it will, nonetheless, act as a driving force for change in capacity as ‘critical friend’. It does not replace the School Council but will serve as one of the chief vehicles for student voice.

Decision Making and Meetings

The General Assembly meets three times per year. Each Council may request to have an issue dealt with by the General Assembly. Requests for agenda items are given to the Chair at least two weeks in advance of meetings and must be ‘in the student’s interest’ and not individual, small group or year only issues. Each Council has a spokesperson who can speak during the meetings. When a vote is needed, all members have one vote. Votes taken on designated important issues, such as recommendations on school policy, require a two-thirds majority, but other questions are decided by simple majority. The voting system involves students leaving the Old Hall via two different doors, one for ‘yes’ and the other for ‘no’. All members of staff may attend meetings as non participants.

Roles and Responsibilities

Chair

The Head Teacher acts as Chair. The Chair conducts the meetings making sure that all concerned are kept informed regarding the work of the General Assembly.

Secretary

The Head of Citizenship acts as Secretary. The Secretary records and distributes the minutes, supports the Chair in the smooth running of the meetings and performs any other task identified by the Chair.

Members of the General Assembly

The School Council, Year Councils and EAL Council constitute the General Assembly. All members consult with their Year group before voting on any recommendations and actions. They provide a link in the chain of communication between decision makers and the student body. Elected members read out recommendations and actions taken by the General Assembly during Form time and assemblies. They give students in their Year group notice of meetings and the agenda items that will be dealt with. Each Year Council has a spokesperson who will speak on behalf of their Year group during meetings. This position will be taken by students on a rotation basis.