

TOP TIPS FOR ADULTS SUPPORTING STUDENTS ON SCHOOL COUNCIL

SUPPORT STUDENT MEMBERS TO LEARN ABOUT THEIR ROLE

Governance will be new to student members. Support students by making sure they have access to any training and assist them in finding a mentor (an adult school council member, a teacher or a past student member) to help them review agendas, explain processes and understand any jargon and acronyms.

CHECK IN REGULARLY

Informal check ins between meetings can be helpful to find out how the student members are going and what is and isn't working for them on school council.

RECOGNISE THE IMPORTANT WORK OF STUDENT MEMBERS

Students should not be disadvantaged by their participation in school council. Your school might support student members by allowing them some class time to prepare for school council activities, or by giving them flexibility for some assessments. Financial support is also important – consider how you can cover travel costs incurred by student members, and if other school council members are paid for certain commitments, then students should also be fully compensated.

ENCOURAGE BROADER STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN SUBCOMMITTEES

School council subcommittees are generally open to members outside the school council. Give students the opportunity to be on subcommittees so they gain experience before they might run to be student members and to include more students in decision making.