



Student Voice and Participation Policy



Document History

Version	Comments/Amendments	Name	Date
1	First Issue	Chris Kelly	22/04/2025

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1. Introduction

At Oaktree Education Services, we are committed to ensuring that every student feels heard, valued and empowered. As a provider of specialist education for students with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs, Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD) and those impacted by trauma, we recognise the transformative power of student voice in building a strong sense of belonging and developing trusting relationships built on mutual respect.

2. Policy Aims

This policy sets out how we will promote, listen to and act on student voice across the college, ensuring compliance with the expectations of Ofsted, the Department for Education (DfE) and all relevant statutory guidance. Our aims are to:

- Empower students to actively participate in the life of the college
- Promote a culture where students feel safe to express their views, opinions and aspirations
- Use student feedback to inform decision-making, quality improvement and curriculum development
- Foster a college environment characterised by mutual respect, trust and inclusion

3. Legal and Regulatory Framework

This policy is guided by the following legislation and standards:

- Education Act 2002 (Section 175)
- Children and Families Act 2014
- SEND Code of Practice 2015
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024
- Ofsted Education Inspection Framework 2023

4. Principles of Student Voice at Oaktree Education Services

We believe that:

- Every student has the right to be listened to and have their views taken seriously
- Participation opportunities must be inclusive, accessible and responsive to individual needs
- Student feedback should drive improvement across all areas of college life
- Staff must model respectful listening and ensure that students are supported to share their opinions safely

5. Mechanisms for Student Voice

We will embed student voice through a variety of formal and informal methods, including:

- **Student Council:** Elected representatives will meet regularly with senior staff to discuss key issues, propose improvements and review college policies
- **Student Surveys:** Conducted termly to gather feedback on teaching, learning, safeguarding and wellbeing
- **Feedback Forums:** Themed discussion groups held each term on topics such as curriculum choices, enrichment activities and pastoral support
- **Tutorials and Key Work Sessions:** Regular one-to-one meetings where students are encouraged to express their views on their progress and experience
- **Suggestion Boxes:** Accessible in communal areas for anonymous contributions

6. Acting on Student Feedback

All feedback will be acknowledged, reviewed and responded to. We will:

- Analyse survey results and present findings to students in an accessible format
- Use feedback to inform college development planning and staff training
- Report actions taken in response to student input through newsletters, assemblies and displays
- Monitor the impact of changes and seek further student views where appropriate

7. Safeguarding Considerations

Where students raise concerns that relate to their safety or the safety of others, our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy will take precedence. Students will be supported to share concerns confidentially and appropriately.

8. Roles and Responsibilities

- **Senior Leadership Team:** Promote a culture of participation, ensure resources are allocated and review the effectiveness of student voice initiatives
- **Designated Student Voice Lead:** Coordinate activities, support student representatives and monitor engagement
- **All Staff:** Model positive listening behaviours, encourage participation and act on feedback
- **Students:** Engage with opportunities, share views respectfully and represent their peers where appropriate

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

The impact of this policy will be reviewed annually through:

- Student Council feedback
- Survey analysis
- Review of participation rates and outcomes
- Stakeholder feedback including from parents and carers

Revisions to the policy will be made where necessary to ensure it remains effective and compliant with any changes to statutory guidance or inspection frameworks.

10. Conclusion

At Oaktree Education Services, student voice is not an add-on but a fundamental part of how we operate. We are committed to creating a college where every student feels that their voice matters, where trust is built through listening and where collective action leads to meaningful change.

11. Policy Review

- This policy will be reviewed **annually** (or sooner, if required by legislative changes or significant developments in best practice).
- The review process will involve **teaching staff, support staff, senior leaders, and governors**, alongside student representatives (where appropriate).

Approval and Signature

- **Principle of Head of College:**
Chris Kelly, 22/04/2025
- **Chair of Governors/Trust Board:**
Name, Signature, Date