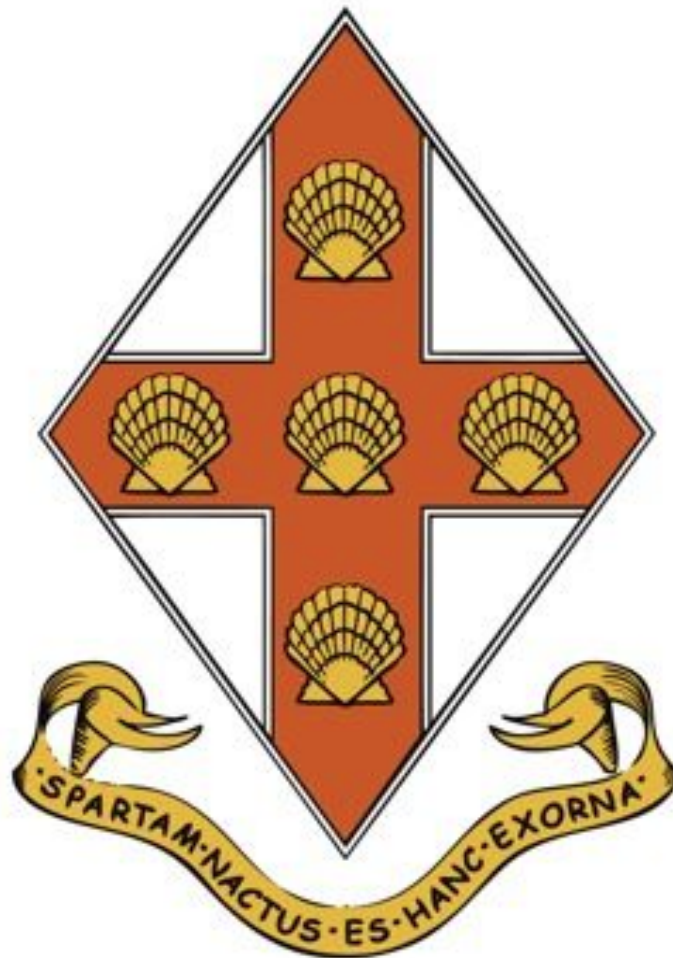


Midleton College Student Council
Constitution



“Together for change”

Revised February 2019

Index

- Article 1 **Fundamentals of the Constitution**
- Article 2 **Aims and Objectives of the Student Council**
- Article 3 **Membership and Joining the Student Council**
- Article 4 **Electoral System and Procedures**
- Article 5 **Officers and Positions in the Student Council**
- Article 6 **Committees in the Student Council**
- Article 7 **Meetings and Quorum**
- Article 8 **Amendments to the Constitution**



Article 1: Name of the Organization

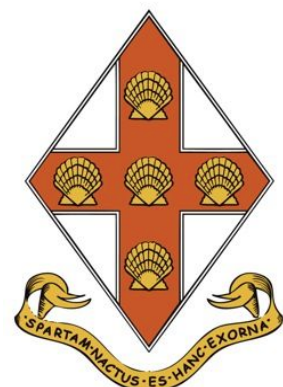
1. The name given to this Council is “Midleton College Student Council” or MCSC

Article 2. Aims of the student council

2. The MCSC is the voice used to represent the student body of Midleton College to the Board of Management and other senior offices in the school.
3. The MCSC seeks to better the environment in Midleton college to benefit students, and to help them find their voice in the school.
4. As per the Education Act (1998), to promote democracy in schools, and to afford students the opportunity to play an active role in every aspect of school life.
5. To widen the range of activities in the school.
6. To liase with similar bodies from other schools on issues of common concern
7. Supporting the students to change aspects of school life to benefit all.
8. To train members and help them make positive changes in and out of the student council.
9. To organize guest speakers to speak to the student body on relevant topics, such as anti-bullying, study skills etc.
10. To represent the school at events that require students attendance.
11. To be fair, transparent and hold no prejudice against others
12. To bring Midleton College together as a community.

Article 3: Council Membership

1. One student from each form class in the school will be elected and will hold the position for one academic year. They’re known as class representatives.



2. The MCSC will elect a Chairperson, Secretary Treasurer, Public Relations Officer, a Vice-Chairperson and a Vice-Secretary
3. A Liaison Teacher shall attend council meetings but shall not be eligible to vote or hold any elected positions in the MCSC

Section 1: Eligibility

1. Any student who wishes to be a part of the council may be voted in via the voting system addressed in article 4.

Section 2: Active and Inactive Members

1. The set officers shall play a largely active role in the council fulfilling the duties laid out in article 5. Other active members in the Council are people in charge of committees. Committees are explained in article 6
2. Other members are known as inactive members they are required for votes. A quorum must be reached and will largely be made of these members. These members also liaise with the student body and bring up relevant issues they voice the opinion of the students.

Article 4: Electoral System and Procedure

1. The MCSC elections shall take place annually in the summer term of each year. Not clashing with exams.
2. The First Year candidates shall be elected before the end of the first half-term of the academic year.
3. The liaison officer must count votes along with the students. No student who is running is allowed to attend the counting to help with transparency.
4. The student council is responsible for creating interest in the position.
5. If there are not enough candidates for a form the Chairperson and Liaison officer will pick a worthy student.
6. All elections will be done via secret ballot. Each form class will vote in their class assembly



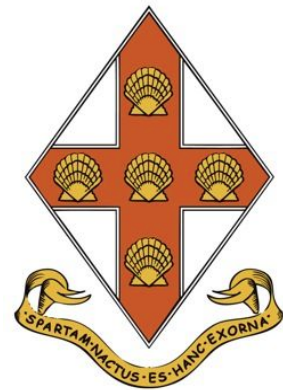
7. The date of election will be publicly announced at the very least one week before due date to allow time for nominees to become organised.
8. Badges shall be given out before the end of First Half-Term

Section 1: Gender Quotas

1. The MCSC must consist of at least one third female members and one third male members leaving one third to be a mix of either.
2. If not enough of one gender sits at the council positions will be offered to Head Boy(s)/Girl(s) if necessary any unelected 6th and 5th year candidates may be appointed until Quota is full.
3. If a gender imbalance is present measures must be taken to ensure it does not happen again.

Section 2: Border Representation

1. There must be at least 1 Male and 1 Female border on the student council.
2. If this is not the case the same procedure for gender quota is followed until Quota is met.



Section 3: Automatic Member Continuance System

1. To ensure reliable continuity on the MCSC from one year to the next two Student Council Members may be nominated to carry on to the next year by the council.
2. The election is held using the PR system of voting
3. Members should only be elected if they are seen as productive members from the year past and are likely to be an asset in the year coming.

Article 5: Officers and Positions in the Student Council

1. *Chairperson*: Has overall responsibility to lead the day-to-day work of the MCSC to allocate work amongst the officers. They are the chief spokesperson for the Council when speaking to senior officials. Also in charge of keeping the council on track.

Sample tasks:

1. Speaking to the Principal about concerns raised in the meetings.
2. Chairing the meetings and keeping the conversation on track.
3. Ensuring everyone gets an input equally from first to sixth year.

2. Secretary: Takes the Minutes and is incharge of making the agenda for the meetings. Accompanies the Chairperson to important meetings to take notes.

Sample tasks:

- 1.
2. Taking notes on meetings. Keeping the minutes.
3. Assisting chair in keeping the conversations in the meetings on track.
4. Sits into important meetings with the chair.
5. Keeps important information safe.
3. Treasurer: Keep track of the accounts of the Council. The Treasurer is in charge of finding the best items to allocate money to. If there is a discussion on what to give money to the treasurer is in charge of making a good decision on where to put the money.



Sample tasks:

1. Approving expenditure.
 2. Giving options on items to spend money on.
 3. Giving money to other organizations within the school.
 4. Meeting with the financial controller of the school
4. Public relations Officer: In charge of upholding a good public image for the Council. Also tries to promote the Council over social media.

Sample tasks:

1. Writing posts for the social media of the Council
2. Update noticeboards.

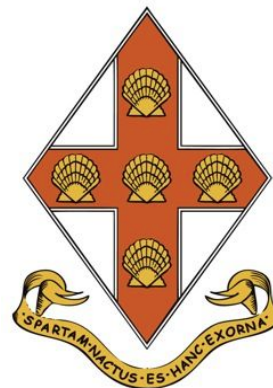
Article 6: Committees in the Council.

1. Each Committee must have at least 3 people to be set up, and a maximum of seven.
2. There must be at least one Senior Member of the council and one Junior Member
3. Members of a committee can be from the wider student body but a majority must be current members.

4. There must at least be one Male and one Female member of the Committee.

Section 1: Appointment and Duties

1. Members to the committee are decided on by the chair and liaison teacher they pick from the nominees. A student may appeal against the decision.
2. When a Committee becomes inactive for more than three weeks its reviewed and disbanded if needed.



Article 7: Meetings and Quorum.

1. At least half of the student council must be present before a meeting can go forward.
2. The Chair is required to go to the meetings. The liaison must attend at the very least every second meeting.
3. The council should meet every fortnight but this can be changed to every three to four weeks depending on the state of the School/Council
4. Members should submit items for the agenda in advance into a group chat or to the secretary directly.

Section 1: Special Meetings

1. A special meeting may be called by the chairperson or liaison teacher in regards to an urgent topic. Specific members may only need to attend this will be decided on by the Teacher and Chairperson.
2. If a vacancy need to be filled a special meeting shall be called. Normally the runner-up in the year before fills the position but this is to the discretion of the liaison teacher and chairperson

3. A dissolution of the student council may be possible if the board of management decide to do so. This decision may be appealed. The Council will have 3 week notice.
4. When removing a member from the council a vote must take place after a solid reason to remove the member is made. Examples would be continual failure to attend meetings or improper use of funds. The member concerned may make a case against and appeal the decision the Principal may get final say of a conclusion can not be reached

Section 2: Quorum

1. The Quorum is the minimum amount of members needed to attend a meeting to decide certain things. Three quarters should be present before a vote is set in motion.

Article 8: Amendments to the Constitution

1. The Constitution may only be changed with the approval of two-thirds of the members in the Student Council.

