



***What is a Parent Council?***

Many schools have Student Councils which enable the young people of the community to have their voice heard when it comes to their learning experiences, school developments, policy development and general provision at school. Here at Altwood we have a long-established, highly active and successful Student Council cited as a model of excellent practice in the region and we have used this model to introduce the same opportunity for our parents.

***What does the Parent Council Do?***

The Parent Council meets six times a year with the Headteacher, Miss Higgins. The meetings take place at 6.00pm for approximately one hour. Each meeting has an agenda which is formulated both by Miss Higgins and the parents on the Council. Miss Higgins uses meetings as a 'sounding board' for the development of new ideas in school, to consult with parents and to ensure that parents' perspectives and ideas are valued and incorporated in all aspects of the school's work with our young people and, critically, in relation to new initiatives and developments. Parents use the meeting to raise matters they wish to know more information about or have addressed.

The Parent Council has also met with the Student Council and had opportunity to visit school during the working day. Our Parent Councillors are now seeking ways in which they can collaborate with the Student Council more frequently.

Over the last year, main areas of focus for the Parent Council have been:

- the School's development priorities;
- supporting school self-evaluation;
- reviewing the Home-School Agreement;
- considering how parental involvement can be further promoted;
- reviewing the school uniform policy;
- expanding partnerships;
- considering how parents can support the school's aspirations as a Specialist Business & Enterprise College;
- enhancing communication systems between home and school;
- enhancing opportunities for students e.g., spiritual development, enrichment activities.

***How do you become a member of the Parent Council?***

Any parent can participate, there exists an 'open invitation'. If you would like to find our more, or would like to attend the first meeting in the new academic year, then please complete the slip below and return it to Miss Higgins' office.



**Parent Council**

I would like to be contacted about becoming a member of the Parent Council in the new academic year

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of child: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Details:**

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_