

The Constitution of the Hardenhuish Year Councils and School Parliament

Formation process

The Parliament will form at the beginning of term 1 every academic year. The process of elections should start as soon as possible within the first full week of the term.

Week 1 Tutor elections

Week 2 Learning Manager meets with newly formed Year council and elect two Parliament members

Week 3 Parliament meets for the first time with SML and the Sixth Form Parliament Leaders. Elections to sub-committees to take place and the Constitution re-confirmed or amended accordingly (having being last reviewed/amended at the penultimate full Parliament meeting at the end of the last academic year). For amendments a reasonable amount of time will be allocated to ensure the amendments are scrutinised and voted on with at least 67% majority.

Where possible the process of forming the Parliament will be completed by the end of September

Hardenhuish Constitution

Article I

(Appointment and Actions of Year Councillors and Parliament members)

Section 1: Two Year Councillors shall be elected annually by all tutor groups in the school (Years 7 to 12) with these elections being irrespective of gender (it being equally valid for there to be two male Councillors, two female Councillors or one male and one female Councillor per tutor group). From this pool of Year Councillors two shall be elected to the Pupil Parliament. The two in question should preferably not come from the same tutor group. Pupils/students will put themselves forward for the council and then be elected using one vote per tutee. The ballot papers should be counted by the tutor and the two with the highest number of votes are duly elected.

If more than two Councillors are elected per tutor group, then the Learning Manager for the Councillors' respective year group reserves the right to de-elect one Councillor (This decision may be based on factors such as total number of votes per Councillor or prior membership of Year Council etc.)

Year 13 have selected representatives chosen by the School Leadership Team as part of the Head boy/Head girl appointment procedure.

Section 2: The election of the Year Councillors should take place as soon as possible for the Parliament to be formed by the end of the third week of September. Please see the formation process above. The election of the Pupil Parliament members must take place on the first meeting once all Year Councillors have been elected. Pupils/students will put themselves forward for the Parliament and the council can decide using a system as described in Section 1.

Section 3: If either a Year Councillor or Pupil Parliament member resigns or is removed from their position, a re-run of the original election for their position must take place under the same terms as originally completed.

Section 4: Year Councillors or Pupil Parliament members may only be removed from their position with agreement from the relevant Learning Manager, Pupil Voice Champion or School Leadership team. Removal will be for reasons that threaten the integrity of the Council/Parliament, that of its

members or breaks the prewritten code of conduct. The code of conduct will be provided to all Parliament members at the first full meeting in September where it will be agreed or altered. The code of conduct can be altered with a 67% vote in favour by the Parliament. Once agreed it is in place for the academic year.

Section 5: Year Councillors may be allowed to miss lessons at discretion of the Learning Manager. However, members of staff do hold the right to retain pupils on the grounds that they feel their education may be hindered as a result.

Section 6: In the first meeting of the Parliament, the Parliament shall discuss the range of sub-committees that need to be formed. The decision will be based on feedback from the previous Parliament and from direction provided by the School Leadership Team.

Section 7: These sub-committees shall have democratically elected student leaders, these leaders must organise sub-committee meetings and are in charge of meetings and representing them at full Parliament meetings and at other opportunities during the year. These sub-committee meetings shall independently discuss issues appointed to them by the Parliament and feedback in the Parliament meetings. It may be necessary to present to Year Councils and/or the school leadership teams.

Article II

(Voting)

Section 1: The entire Parliament may hold a vote at any time relating to any subject matter. Each member has one equal vote.

Article III

(The Constitution)

Section 1: The Parliament, whenever 67% of members deem it necessary shall propose amendments or remove sections from this constitution. Upon this being met it shall be delegated to an appropriate sub-committee which shall be chosen democratically by the Parliament to make the alterations in question. These shall then be put forth to the Parliament who will decide if it meets the required criteria. The Student Leadership team also holds the right to propose these alterations.

Section 2: The penultimate meeting of the Parliament before Year 11 and 13 leave, each year shall be allocated to the purpose of reflection upon what has been achieved by the Parliament, where there are areas for development and what needs to be altered to the constitution in preparation for the renewal of the Parliament. The amendments can be voted in at the final meeting of the year with the added benefit of being reviewed at the first meeting of the new Parliament of the new academic year.

Section 3: Record keeping is important so that previous minutes can be scrutinised and transparency achieved. Each full Parliament meeting and sub-committee meetings, will produce an agenda and subsequently, minutes of the meeting. The minutes will be agreed at the next meeting that follows. These will be stored with the Schools 'Pupil Voice Champion' securely but with access to members and other stakeholders as 'read only'. All meetings will have agendas and minutes that clearly state who is meeting (full Parliament/sub-group), those in attendance and those absent plus dates, location and time.

Section 4: It is the expectation that there will be a minimum of six full Parliament meetings per academic year corresponding to a similar number of Year Council meetings. This means there should be one or more per term as required, and that the times/dates allow communication and feedback between the Parliament and Year Council. There can be any number of sub-committee meetings as

need arises. However, in order to protect sub-committee members from involvement that might impact on learning, more than two per term must be agreed with the 'Pupil Champion'.

Section 5: The role of the Year 13 Pupil Parliament representatives as chosen by the Head teacher, should be held by a former (prior) Parliament member.