

Trust Student Council Meeting Minutes- 26th November 2025 at 16:30 via Teams

Summary of proposals made

Geography- Students have highlighted excellent opportunities in Geography include interactive lessons, outdoor activities and field trips.

Belonging- Students believe that more student led activities, helping children learn the skills to interact with more confidence, Trust wide events and asking students which clubs they would like for the following year would help them to feel they belong.

Online simplification- Mixed opinions from the students. Some find there is a lack of challenge whilst other don't find it challenging enough. If you seek simplification you can find it but if you want to challenge yourself to learn then it allows you to.

Social media ban in Australia- Many students agree with the ban but believe if students are taught the effects of social media and how it can be used responsibly, then a ban wouldn't be necessary.

Use of AI in Schools- Many agree that AI is great for ideas, research and inspiration but it can be misused. Students need to be taught about responsible use of AI to ensure it doesn't have a negative impact on their learning.

Actions:

- **Please all read the minutes and inform Mrs Askar if any changes are needed.**

Present:

Mr Buckley, CEO

Mrs Pipe, Headteacher and Student Voice Coordinator at Dobwalls and Trewidland

Ms Hawker, Deputy Head, Curriculum Lead & Student Voice Coordinator at Landulph

Ms Ryall, Head of Geography & Student Voice Coordinator at Saltash

Mrs Askar, PA to CEO

Student Attendees:

Landulph and Trewidland *had staff representing their pupils so all schools had at least one representative in the meeting*

Looe: Alfie, Beatrix, Sid, Oliver

Saltash: Caden, Emily, Faye, Joe

Dobwalls: Ava, Ella, Tarryn

Liskeard: Harry, Isla, Peter

Meeting started at 16:30

Welcome

Mr Buckley welcomed everyone to the meeting and went through the rules for using Microsoft teams correctly and each student took it in turns to unmute, turn on their camera and introduce themselves to the group. It was advised that these meetings are to share ideas and best practice with a focus on positive comments and suggestions. All concerns should be reported to a teacher at school. Once introductions were completed, Mr Buckley handed over to Alfie who had volunteered to chair the first discussion.

Geography

Alfie asked the students for examples of inspirational geography lessons and for any suggested improvements.

Saltash: Suggested to make lessons more interactive. Students have requested that there is more teaching on country locations and their flags. It was agreed that online quizzes and more visual learning would be preferred. Some students found lessons on renewable resources inspirational. Students found a trip to the river Tamar where they sketched and labelled their drawings to be memorable.

Dobwalls: Students have requested more creative activities in lessons.

Looe: Students have requested some fun outdoor activities with wave measurements shared as an idea.

Liskeard: Students would like more opportunities for field work with fundraising to be done for those who aren't able to afford the trips. Students would like to explore a wider range of countries.

Mr Buckley: commented on the impressive way that Alfie noted students names when they differed to their log ins. He also complimented Alfie on summarising what each student said throughout. Mr Buckley then handed over to Joe who volunteered to chair the second discussion.

Belonging

Joe asked the students: If you had to place in order, after your immediate family, what other groups do you feel you strongly belong to?

Saltash: Many students reported friendship groups and sporting groups such as rugby, football and badminton. It was also suggested that students having the confidence in what they are doing helps them to feel belonging.

Looe: Tutor groups are a good place for people to connect and feel that they belong.

Mr Buckley: advised that schools have been set the task to find ways that help children and staff feel a better sense of belonging and to help everyone feel that they belong. Students were asked if there is anything else we should be doing? Any events, rituals or routines that we should be creating or working on?

Saltash: Large events help people understand the community they are a part of. Saltash have regular afternoons where students get to try new activities and also have mufti days for charity which brings everyone in school together to raise money, both of these work well in making students feel they belong. Schools can help children to build the skills and confidence they need to take part.

Liskeard: Increasing the amount of student led activities at lunch and break time could help. Secondary students could lead primary school activities. More trust wide events would be beneficial.

Looe: More student run activities would work and also events like the remembrance service. We could ask students each year which clubs each school should have so students feel they have had an input.

Mr Buckley: Commented that we had some brilliant suggestions and congratulated Joe on doing a great job chairing. Joe made sure to include others and summarised what students had shared. Mr Buckley then handed over to Caden for the final discussion.

Online simplification

Caden asked the students if anything online has been made too simple for them?

Looe: Sparks Maths, English and Science are really easy, and students don't feel challenged.

Saltash: Some students feel that things have been made too easy, but some say it's not challenging enough. If you look for simplicity you will find it. Students can choose whether to look for it or not.

Looe: Some students struggle to focus so simple and easy are sometimes best.

Caden: Asked if anyone had an opinion on the social media ban in Australia for under 16s?

Looe: Agreed with the ban as students are on their phones and don't interact with others. If there was more interaction it would help with their social skills. However social media is also a good way to express your feelings and receive support from others. Social media can be a good place where you can make friends and express your feelings

Saltash: 16 might be too old as social media can be used to stay connected. If children were taught more about social media and the effects of it, then a ban wouldn't be necessary. Some people are only on it because others are on it, not because they want to be on social media.

Dobwalls: Social media can be good for children as there are some posts which teach children important things.

Caden: stated that AI was mentioned in his friendship group and some students believe that schools need to embrace using AI. Caden asked if anyone had an opinion on this.

Looe: One student councillor disagreed and said that AI is taking over the world and having an impact on employment. AI is misused a lot of the time. It should be used to help and support.

Liskeard: AI isn't allowing students to think for themselves. AI just tends to tell you what you want to hear.

Saltash: AI can be both bad and good. It can be used to help people. If students are struggling with homework and then use AI they don't learn anything. AI is misused a lot of the time. It should be used for research purposes, not to do all the work. As a future generation we will come to rely on AI too heavily, it could be good in moderation.

Dobwalls: AI should be used for inspiration and ideas only

Mr Buckley: Passed on a massive well done to Caden as it was the first time Caden had chaired. Mr Buckley said that Caden extended the discussion really well and it was a brilliant to be a part of. The students were advised that all their views would be passed on to leaders throughout the trust. Our next meeting will be classroom to classroom at the beginning of February.

Please note: As explained in the discussion, these meetings are for the sharing of ideas and suggestions and so any concerns or issues related to specific staff or specific incidences are not recorded in these public minutes. One such specific example was raised in this case and the child encouraged to discuss it back at school with their teacher.

Meeting ended: 17:15