Welsh Parliament

School council session plan

School council lesson plan

Aims of the Session

The main aims of this session is to increase participation by pupils in the work as Members of the school council/ Senedd and use the Senedd and Welsh youth Parliament as useful models to increase their understanding and inspiration.

* **Understand their roles and decide to prioritise as a council/ school Senedd based on the Welsh Parliament model.**
* **Consideration of others and ownership of their roles.**
* **Inspiration from watching Welsh Youth Parliament Members speak.**
* **Understand the school Senedd model in the context of the Senedd.**

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| Activity | Explanation | Time | Resources |
| Ice breaker: What make a good citizen? | Split pupils in groups of 3-4 and give them a big sheet of paper (A3) and felt pens – every group to be allocated one part of the body:Group 1) Head and neckGroup 2) torso, arms and hipsGroup 3) LegsGroup 4)Head and neck etc.“ The aim of this exercise is for you to label your body part with characteristics that make a good citizen for example the head may have a label saying thoughtful, wise, the eyes may be labelled stating ‘a vision for the future etc’.You should give time for groups to create their image and add good citizen characteristics of a good citizen – feed back from everyone and eventually the teacher can put the body parts together and display in somewhere obvious. | 10 minutes | Big paper (A3/ A2 x 10), felt pens |
| Decide on priorities based on WYP model | Divide pupils into groups (if you feel it is beneficial you can divide older pupils among younger pupils). “The worksheet ask key questions for you to consider as members of the school council – try and answer as many as you can and we will hear back from everyone. This is a way of getting you to think about what you would like to achieve as a school council. This is the exact tasks that are given to the Welsh Youth Parliament” Give them time to work through the sheet and then feed back. | 15 munud | School council planning sheet |

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| Inspiration and role play  | One approach to inspiring pupils that others like them are doing a similar job of giving young people a voice is by sharing a clip of the Welsh Youth Parliamentarians speaking. Then offer them a topic of discussion. Possible suggestions:"School uniforms are the best way to ensure apparent fairness in a school." (Agree/Disagree)"E-cigarettes should be banned." (Agree/ Disagree)"A mandatory fitness programme should be introduced to all pupils.” Aree/ Disagree. | 10 minutes | Clip from youtube of Welsh Youth Parliament |
| Senedd Powers and our Members | As context – ask what does the Senedd have power over and then share the answers.  | 5 minutes | Power point |
| Discussion to close | Use the task as a means of choosing a Chair for the council and Secretary (these can be rotated as desired) and encourage Chair to lead the discussion of the day’s session e.g. means of working and council/ Senedd aims. A further opportunity to suggest if they may like a visit by their Senedd Education Officer or to arrange a visit by the council to the Senedd. If so you can reserve here in due course A visit to you in school: http://tinyurl.com/3myb3w9vVisit the Senedd: <http://tinyurl.com/yvf9hfws> | 10 minutes |  |

**Notes to teacher:** Many of these tasks can be extended over several sessions – e.g. goals of what to achieve, mind maps etc. Your Parliamentary Education Officer can also teach you with the precision and knowledge of the Senedd context by coming in to you to do this session. As the term and school year progresses it would be possible to re-visit the worksheets or do the priorities task again and check that the council is happy with the direction of things. The focus on certain tasks may be encouraged and delegated to subcommittees; as much ownership of pupils as possible should therefore be encouraged – chairman and secretary etc (these could be changed from session to session if desired). Consideration should also be given to presenting a ball and passing it around the group when encouraging the sharing of opinion – to ensure everyone has their say. Alternatively and additionally - an anonymous suggestion box can also be presented to the council or the whole school so that pupils can also share views in confidence.