



School Council Handbook



Rights

There is an international law called The Convention on the Rights of the Child which nearly all the countries of the world have agreed to practice.



There are many articles in the Convention like the following.

You can read all of the articles on www.schoolcouncils.org



Article 12

Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their **opinions** taken into account.

Article 13

Children have the right to get and to share **information** as long as the information is not damaging to them or to others.

Article 15

Children have the right to meet together and to **join groups and organisations**, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.

Why do we need School Councils?

For many years, all the decisions about children were made by adults.



This was thought to be best because adults are older and have experience, training and qualifications.

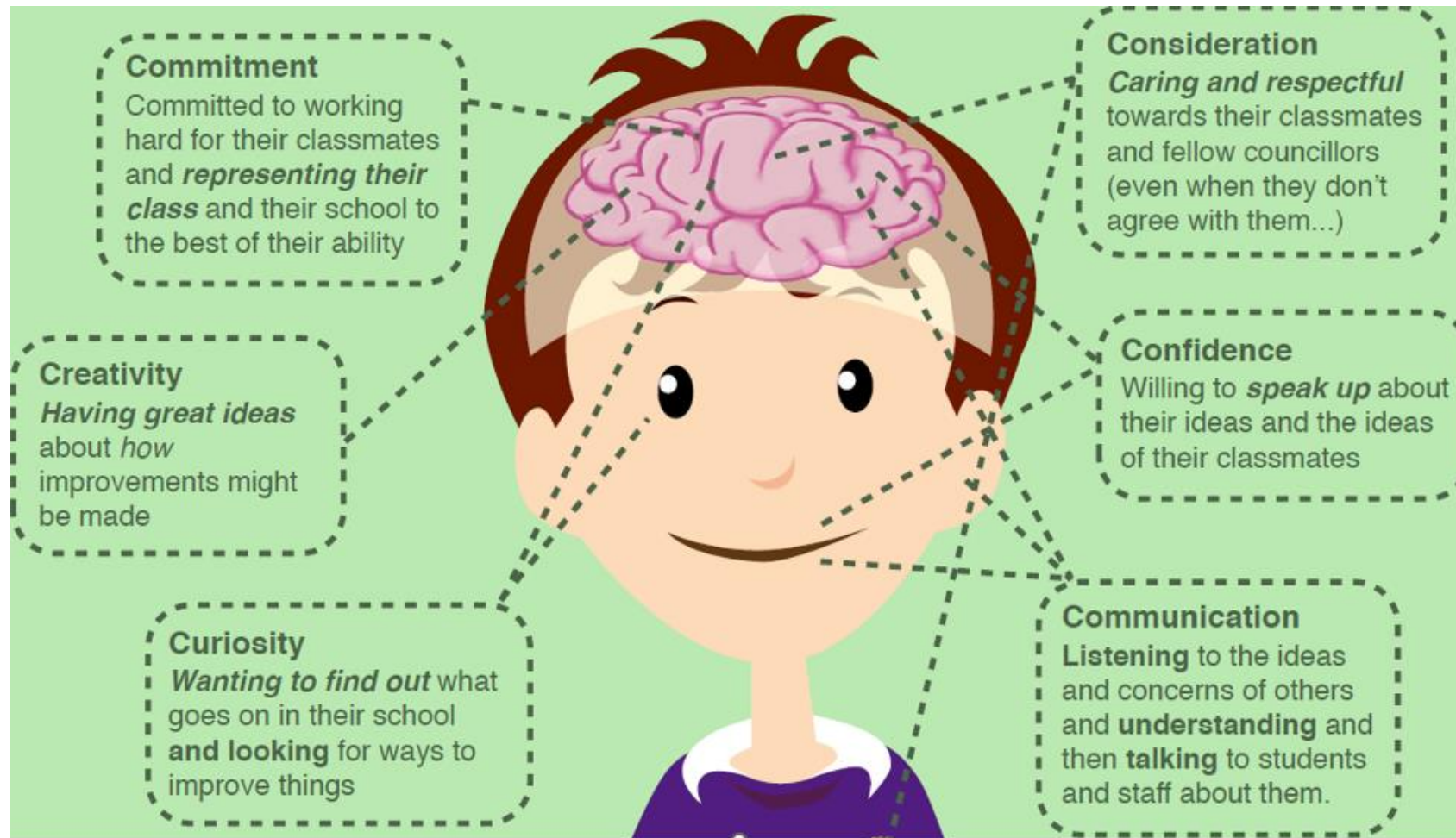


But adults didn't always make the **right** decisions, sometimes because they hadn't talked with the children about the issue.

All the countries of the world got together and agreed that children must be given rights. Plus, sometimes their ideas are actually better than adults!

So the **government** decided that adults must listen to children before making a decision about them.

What is inside a school councillor?





MEETINGS

- We will have a list of things that we want to talk about, this is called an AGENDA.
- Everyone will be given a chance to talk and everyone else will listen **with respect**.
- We can come to the meeting with an idea about how to make our school even better.
- We may want to talk about how we can help our local community.
- The grown up will make notes about what has been said in the meeting, this is called the MINUTES.
- We will report back to our classes and talk to them about what was discussed in the meeting.

Reporting back

After going to a meeting, Councillors need to tell their class what happened - this is called **reporting back**.

Reporting back is telling your classmates: -

- *What was discussed at the meeting*
- *What was decided*
- *What is going to be done*
- *What your classmates can do to help*

Always have your own meeting notes, or the minutes from the meeting with you, to help you remember.



We Meet every other Thursday at 1.30pm.

My commitment to the School Council

1. I will do my best to represent my class and my school,
2. I will ask for ideas from my classmates and bring them to the council meetings,
3. I will report back to my classmates about what the school council have talked about,
4. I will listen to my classmates and fellow councillors and respect their views.



Signed.....Date.....



Being a school councillor is both a privilege and a responsibility.

Enjoy your time!