



BORD OIDEACHAIS AGUS OILIÚNA CHIARRAÍ
KERRY EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

Kerry Education and Training Board Student Forum

(A Forum for Kerry ETB Student Councils)

Terms of Reference

PREAMBLE

The Education (Parent and Student Charter) Bill 2016, which Minister Bruton secured approval from government to draft earlier in 2018, is a new law which will require every school to consult with parents and students on key issues and publish and operate a Parent and Student Charter in line with national statutory guidelines. This will ensure that there is always open, progressive communication between students, parents and schools.

For this reason, never have Student Councils in schools and The Student Forum in Kerry ETB been more important.

AIMS:

The aim of the Kerry ETB Student Forum is to primarily provide a link between the Head Office of Kerry ETB and the Student Councils in the eight Kerry ETB post primary schools.

Through this link, it is hoped to:

- Enhance the quality of education provision in the eight post-primary Kerry ETB schools.
- Contribute to the ongoing focus on the learner in Kerry ETB schools by, at all times, placing the student at the heart of the endeavour and by recognising that the quality of each school is determined by the quality of the relationships between students, staff, parents/guardians and the wider community.
- Improve communication between Kerry ETB and students in the eight post-primary schools through regular information sessions and through consultation, collaboration and appropriate participation in Kerry ETB's decision making processes.
- Provide a forum for Kerry ETB students to receive reports, to discuss issues and proposals and to formulate recommendation to Kerry ETB, executive and policy agencies.
- Contribute to the total learning experience for students in Kerry ETB schools by supporting and developing the operation of Student Councils in Kerry ETB schools.

COMPOSITION:



The Forum will consist of 16-24 persons representative of the students attending the eight post-primary schools in the county.

OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

MEMBERSHIP:

- Where Student Councils currently exist in a school, the school is responsible for making arrangements for nominations of persons to the Forum (with the help of their link teacher).
- Any school who does not have a Student Council the Principal and Board of Management will make the necessary arrangements for the setting up of a Student Council as is provided for in Section 27 of the Education Act 1998. Upon its inception, the Council will make nominations to the Forum.
- Each school Student Council shall nominate 2-3 persons to the Forum. One person shall be male and one shall be female.

The following general principles will apply:

-  Nominated representatives must be willing to operate as members of the Forum and must be prepared to make oral reports and digital presentations on the progress, developments, initiatives etc. being made in their school.
-  The consent of those being represented must be secured – by a ballot or another appropriate similar means.

OPERATION:

- The Forum will appoint a Chairperson from amongst its members.
- The Director of Schools representatives (currently Margaret Godley and Anne Marie Hassett) along with the link teachers in each school will attend meetings of the Forum. From time to time, guest speakers may address the Forum in connection with issues relevant to same.
- Transport to the Forum will be provided by Kerry ETB.
- The Administration for the Forum will be provided by Ms Aisling O Leary, P.A. for the Kerry ETB Youth Officer, Ms Miriam Galvin.
- A budget for the operation of the Forum provides for refreshments and lunch at each meeting.
- The term of office of Forum members shall normally be two years.

PROGRAMME OF WORK:

The Forum shall meet three times annually, autumn term, spring term and summer term. Each meeting shall receive reports, discuss issues and proposals and formulate recommendations to Kerry ETB, executive and policy agencies.

Recommendations shall not issue from the Forum to the Board of Management of any individual school. Such communications shall be dealt with by individual School Student Councils.

REPORTS:

- Each meeting will receive a report on Kerry ETB School Programmes including extra-curricular programmes/initiatives and an outline of proposals under consideration.
- There will be an opportunity at each meeting for schools to discuss their own school developments, issues, challenges with other schools in a café style model.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

Each meeting will provide for discussion of policy/procedural issues. The range of issues for discussion at an initial meeting will include:

- Election of a Chair
- Review of the aims of the Forum
- Agreement of schedules of meetings
- Agreement of schedule of reports
- Preliminary briefing/discussion on Student Councils, roles, expectations etc.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Policy recommendations on matters relating to the operation of Kerry ETB schools may be made by the Forum to the ETB Executive Director of Schools or CEO or to the Committee or appropriate Sub-Committee.
- The Forum will be formally consulted in the drafting of the five year Strategy Statement for Kerry ETB and the annual Service Plan.

