

# What happens at a Voices of Hertfordshire meeting?

## Who can come to the meetings?

Anyone! The meetings are all about inclusion so that means we want children of all abilities, ages, and backgrounds to be involved. We don't just want children from your traditional school councils – this could be inclusion ambassadors, mentors, anti-bullying leaders.

Each setting can bring between 5 & 8 young people (if you do wish to bring less this is fine). When selecting children to attend these meetings please ensure that, regardless of communication needs, all children and young people are considered. The multi school council meetings are accessible for all children to have their say. Adaptions are made for nonverbal children and those who require communication aids.

## How often are meetings?

From September 2024 we will be holding meetings **five times throughout the academic year**.

## Where are the meetings?

Schools in each area will host the meetings. The children have said that the more variation of meeting venues the better. If you would like to be one of the host schools, please contact our central email address at [sarah.stevsn2@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.stevsn2@hertfordshire.gov.uk).

## If I host a meeting, what is expected of us?

Meetings are held at different educational settings throughout the academic year. We ask host schools to provide a room, a space to use a PowerPoint/share music and snacks for the break period. We have held meetings both indoors and outside. Any setup can work, as long as young people have the space to share their views.

## What happens at the meetings?

There will be an agenda for each meeting that is sent to you in advance of each meeting. When arriving there may be some introduction activities and a chance to meet/mix with children from other schools. The core of the meeting will remain ideas against each agenda item, where children will be given a chance to talk to their peers and then feedback to the MSC member chairing the meeting. At the end of each meeting, we will now be introducing a chance for children to suggest items for the next meeting, with the most common themes then getting listed.

We understand that some meetings may be hard to get to so some schools have the opportunity to host individual school meetings, this may be most appropriate for SLD provisions and where equipment and health need make it difficult to move to other settings to support this.



Why should I get involved?



We believe that pupil voice should be at the heart of all our schools. What the Voices of Hertfordshire offers is a chance to take these ideas to leaders across education, health and social care teams to ensure positive changes for young people. The other advantage is that all those at the meetings get to meet others with a range of needs or differences and it helps break down some of those barriers that can be created. The meetings really are for everyone!

If you have any questions about these meetings and wish to find out more, please contact [sarah.stevens2@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.stevens2@hertfordshire.gov.uk) or reach out on social media (links in icons below)

