

# Merton Youth Parliament Constitution

This constitution was put together by young people from Merton secondary schools at a constitution convention held at St Mark's Academy on 3 May 2007. An on line referendum then took place with 425 votes made with 350 in favour, 50 against and 25 don't knows so the constitution was adopted.

## Purpose

1. To make sure that young people in Merton are listened to and consulted on issues to do with young people in Merton.
2. To make sure that young people are involved in decision making when the decisions to be taken will have an impact on young people in Merton.
3. To be the voice of young people in Merton.
4. To have a say on making education, leisure, open spaces, transport and Merton in general a better place for young people.
5. To make proposals on how Merton can be a safer place for young people including freedom from bullying.
6. To tackle common problems which are faced by young people in and out of school.

## Membership

1. The age range for membership of the Youth Parliament is 11 to 18.
2. All secondary schools, including independent, and colleges in Merton will have four places. It would be for the young people in each of these to decide how these young people are chosen to represent their school or college.
3. Other young people could be members of the Youth Parliament in order to represent their youth group or because they had an interest or issue they wanted to pursue.
4. The term of office would be one year with members eligible to remain longer if the young people in their organisation wanted them to continue to be their representative.

## Meetings

1. The meetings should be in the Council Chamber.
2. The meetings should take place monthly on a Monday and start at 5.30pm and last for less than 2 hours.
3. Minutes of each meeting will be taken by a member with the assistance of an officer of the Council, which records decisions and agreed actions.

## **Decision making**

1. Any member can make a proposal for discussion or decision.
2. Decisions will be by majority vote by show of hands.
3. Once a year a chair and vice chair of the Youth Parliament will be elected by majority vote of the members of the Youth Parliament following each candidate making a five minute presentation to the Parliament. The candidate with most votes will be chair with the runner up the vice chair.

## **Ambitions of the parliament**

1. To have a budget delegated by the Council for the Parliament to control.
2. To produce a magazine so that young people and others can be kept informed.
3. Decisions made by the Council, which will have an impact on young people, should be referred to the Youth Parliament for their views and recommendations.