



# Engaging learners to achieve school improvement

## Introduction

Student voice is not new. However, many schools take a piecemeal approach, maybe running school councils and organising the occasional questionnaire or focus group.

The purpose of this toolkit is to enable schools and settings to take a more systematic and strategic view of how student voices can be engaged to achieve school improvement, close the achievement gap and support SMSC development.

The toolkit provides resources to enable a school or setting to identify where it is with student voice, how it can be developed further and what the potential impact might be. The resources have been developed by a team of advisers and ASTs, working with a group of teachers and students to trial the resources and are backed up by good practice case studies from schools within North Yorkshire.

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<b>Part 3: Case studies</b>
A range of case studies from North Yorkshire schools are available on nyASSIST on-line in the Student Voice Room.

## Auditing current practice

The toolkit contains resources to use with both students and staff to establish where the school currently is with student voice. Once your school has established where it currently is with student voice then they can start to build on their existing good practice and plan for progressive development of student voice. It is important to consider both staff and student perceptions. It is unrealistic to jump from an early stage of development of student voice to a latter stage, without securing the foundations of effective practice and engagement. Start small and ensure that the school is secure with current strategies and that the school is achieving real, positive outcomes for learners.

## Next steps

Use the table below to help you identify potential next steps.

Stage	What you do now	Next steps
Focussing	Your school is just starting out with student voice.	<p>Teach about rights and responsibilities, linked to UNICEF Rights of the child, so young people understand they have a voice. (See Appendix 3)</p> <p>Establish a more effective, democratically elected School Council that is allowed to have an impact. (See Appendix 4)</p>
Initiating	Students are sometimes consulted but the findings are not always acted upon.	<p>Use questionnaires and surveys to gather student views on a particular issue, policy or proposed change and act on the findings. (See appendix 5)</p> <p>Establish mechanisms for collecting student views on a regular basis (Suggestion box, Forums, Circle Time, etc)</p>
Developing	Students are regularly consulted, but the findings and resulting actions aren't widely shared.	<p>Gather views of vulnerable learners and other groups through focus groups. Act on the findings. (See appendix 5)</p> <p>Gather student views on learning and teaching as part of departmental reviews. (See appendix 8)</p> <p>Establish a range of student groups in addition to the School Council, eg: Student leaders, Student mentors, Eco-warriors. (Appendix 7)</p> <p>Publicise the work around student voice and the impact student voice has, in school and the community.</p>
Embedding	Student views are gathered as a matter of course, including the views of vulnerable learners and the impact is evident and widely	<p>Create opportunities for students to be members of or be invited to key forums: eg. SLT, Governors, PTA, Staff Meetings. (Appendix 7)</p> <p>Organise a consultation event with students and</p>

	shared.	<p>other members of the school and community so that their voices are heard beyond the school. (See appendix 9)</p> <p>Train students so they can gather student views themselves.</p> <p>Train students to evaluate lessons and how to work with teachers on improving learning and teaching. (Appendix 8)</p>
Enhancing	Student's views are respected and they work with staff to improve all aspects of the school.	<p>Encourage students to initiate, plan and run their own consultation event. (See Appendix 9)</p> <p>Enable students to formally observe lessons and give constructive feedback. (See Appendix 8)</p> <p>Establish a climate and a system where students work with teachers on improving learning and teaching. (See Appendix 8)</p>

## Where to get the Student Voice Toolkit

The toolkit is available to download on 'Fronter' in the nyASSIST Student Voice Room.

Training or advice on the use of the Toolkit can be provided by the Student Voice team (see contact details below).

## Contacts and support

<p>Rebecca Mason Education Development Adviser Humanities</p>	<p><a href="mailto:Rebecca.Mason@northyorks.gov.uk">Rebecca.Mason@northyorks.gov.uk</a> 01609 798554</p>
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## Contact us

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Our Customer Service Centre is open: Monday - Friday 8.30am - 6.00pm and Saturday

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If you would like this information in another language or format such as Braille, large print or audio, please ask us.

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如欲索取以另一語言印製或另一格式製作的資料，請與我們聯絡。

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Aby otrzymać te informacje w innym języku lub formacie, np. w alfabecie brajla, w wersji dużym drukiem lub audio, prosimy się z nami skontaktować.

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