



Learner Engagement Strategy

Askham Bryan College firmly believes that embracing student views and offering structured opportunities for students to have direct involvement in assessing and shaping their own learning experience will have a significant impact on developing the College's quality and equality processes, increasing student success.

It will help develop our students as active citizens with shared values and prepare them for life in modern Britain. In addition, it will develop cohesion, understanding and resilience in students, so that they are not drawn into actions that are contrary to our shared values and place them at risk of not achieving their full potential.

Askham Bryan College will work with students and their representative structures to ensure that all students are able to participate in College learner engagement processes.

1.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1.1 Aim: To embrace learner views and offer structured opportunities for students to have direct involvement in assessing and shaping their own learning experience in order to develop the College's quality improvement processes, to increase student success and develop as active citizens in the wider community.

1.2 Objectives: To ensure that all students, individually and collectively, have an entitlement to:

An opportunity to take a full and active part in College life: In order to deliver the objective the College will offer a range of additional activities that students can take part in outside of curriculum time. This will include staff and student led activities with students having the ability to set up their own society for groups they are interested in starting.

A forum for learner involvement enabling learners to contribute fully to the quality of the College including both curriculum and wider College developments: In order to deliver the objective the College will provide opportunities for students to give feedback on various aspects of the College and College life. This will be done via established systems, which include learner surveys, focus groups, the Student Council and Student Union.

Provide students with involvement opportunities that enable personal and social development: In order to deliver the objective the College will provide a student CPD programme supporting a range of relevant topics. The College will offer access to high quality, impartial careers advice that will provide support with activities around employability, going to university and other paths and opportunities available to students in the future. Additionally, there will be a range of activities and events to promote

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various aspects of personal and social development as well as personal wellbeing and safety.

2.0 PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

The below principles of engagement will improve the Learner Voice:

2.1 Consultation and Decision - making

The need to consult with learners will be the minimum starting point for this strategy. At all levels we will work to build a College organisational culture where learners, both individually and collectively, take personal and collective responsibility for their own input and feedback into College decision making and processes. This will involve the creation and maintenance of autonomous, collective, representative bodies and structures in which students may take part and contribute.

2.2 Democracy and Citizenship

Participation in Learner Engagement activity should be seen as a key opportunity for learners to embody British Values. To reinforce Citizenship principles, collectively this will more often than not involve democratic processes. The election process from classroom to Student Council and Corporation supports the creation of a student led community. When that process is underpinned by support and encouragement the outcome is real influence for the successful candidates and will increase participation.

2.3 Recognising Learners are Different

The College will work with students and their representative structures to create an equality of opportunity to participate in College learner engagement processes. This strategy will create a number of different actions designed to ensure the participation of all learners in a College community.

2.4 Supporting Students to Succeed

This College will work with learners to develop a Student Union and related structures that continue to succeed. This will involve developing systems that can keep student officers accountable through comprehensive course representative and office systems that encourage good governance of student organisations

2.5 Appropriate Funding and Support

At all levels we are committed to providing appropriate resources to enable and encourage these mechanisms to work. This will take a number of forms - funding to the Student Union, direct staff support, resources in kind in the form of accommodation and office costs, time off for student representative activities, and a wider staff development commitment to developing and embedding learners in to all decision making, evaluation and quality improvement measures in the College.

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3.0 MECHANISM OF ENGAGEMENT

3.1 Student Union

Elected by students, the Student Union are the leaders of the student body, responsible for embracing the views of students voiced via formal or informal channels. The Student Union is made up of the following members:

- President Student Governor
- Vice-President Student Governor
- Secretary and Treasurer (member of the Executive Committee)
- Events & Entertainment Officer (member of the Executive Committee)
- Sports Officer (member of the Executive Committee)
- Welfare & Campaigns Officer (member of the Executive Committee)
- LGBTQ+ Officer (member of the Executive Committee)
- Centre Representatives (Non-Executive Officers)

3.2 Student Governor

Two students will be elected as Student Governors on an annual basis from the Student Union. The President and Vice President of the Students' Union are automatically the two Student Governors.

3.3 Course Representatives

Each course, across all learning areas will nominate and elect one representative who is commissioned to voice the views of the group at meetings.

3.4 Student Ambassadors (FOR 2018-2019)

Students will have the opportunity to apply for roles as Student Ambassadors. These roles involve an application and interview process to select suitable candidates to undertake paid work to represent the College in key events such as Open Days, enrolment and other high profile events etc.

3.5 Providing Support and Training

The College will provide support and training to students to represent themselves and others in the processes mentioned above. The support could range from administrative and financial support to enabling students to represent themselves through training. We will therefore

- Provide training for members of the Student Union and Course Representatives to enable their full participation
- Ensure students are fully aware of their rights and responsibilities

3.6 Student Council

Student Services and the Student Union plan Student Council meetings twice per term, for FE and HE students. There is a standard agenda for the meetings. Course Representatives and the Executive team participate and use this as an opportunity to hear the views of learners and provide feedback on issues raised.

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3.7 Communication

There will be a two-way 'open door' policy to allow free liaison between the students and the Campus Principal / Director of Student Services. The Chief Executive will also hold 'open door' opportunities for students to voice their views.

3.8 Learner Surveys

The College carries out learner surveys throughout the year asking learner views on topics such as:

- Teaching and Learning
- Assessment and Feedback
- Wellbeing and Support

The College will use this feedback to improve the quality of the learner experience and measure the impact on activities. All FE students undertake the twice-yearly Student Perception of College Survey (SPOC). A separate survey is undertaken by residential students (FE and HE). HE students undertake mid-year surveys and the yearly NSS.

3.9 Focus Groups

The College will run themed focus groups to capture the learner voice, recording actions on concerns that they have raised in other platforms. The College will use this feedback to improve the quality of the learner experience and measure the impact on activities.

3.10 Student involvement in College Committees

The College will involve student on a variety of committees in order to capture the learner voice. The College will use this feedback to improve the quality of the learner experience and measure the impact on activities. The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee has student representatives. HE Academic Board and Academic Standards and Development Committees also have student representatives.

3.11 Student Involvement in Staff Appointments

Students will be involved in a variety of ways with key staff appointments. These may take place in the below form:

- Micro-teaching sessions as part of teacher recruitment process
- Focus groups with Managers
- Observation of assessment centre activities

3.12 Learning Reviews

The views of students will be collected as part of Curriculum Course Reviews used to inform the identification of strengths and areas for improvement/development in curriculum areas.

3.13 Student Satisfaction – feedback to students

The College will listen to the views and concerns raised by students in various platforms. Feedback will be collected and a set of actions will be communicated to students in

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various modes e.g. 'You Said, We Did' posters, information on Moodle, via Course Reps.

4.0 WRITTEN COMMUNICATION OF STUDENT VIEWS TO SMT AND CORPORATION

4.1 Feedback on Student Voice issues and resolutions will be fed back on a monthly basis via SMT Curriculum and Quality. An Annual Report on Student Voice will be presented to SMT alongside interim reports to the Corporation Quality and Standards Committee as part of the Student Services reports.

Related Policies

- QA7 Customer Service and Complaints Procedure

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