

The problem: Too often, only the loudest or most confident children are heard in schools, leaving many without the chance to develop vital skills such as empathy, collective problem-solving, and critical thinking—all essential skills for thriving as adults. Traditional school councils reinforce this problem.

The solution: Smart School Councils are a charity that changes that by making every pupil part of the conversation and giving all children equal opportunities to lead and contribute by introducing a simple, affordable platform that helps schools provide every pupil, not just a select few, a voice.

What is Smart School Councils (SSC)?

- An online platform (no complicated software installations required - just a web login).
- Weekly class meetings, run by pupils, discussing real issues.
- Builds confidence, critical thinking, and collective decision-making skills.
- Supports active listening and respectful debate from age four upwards.

How does it work in schools?

- Schools log in to access:
- A bank of over 2,000 pre-written, child-friendly discussion questions (updated weekly).
- A presentation tool (like interactive slides) designed to help pupils run meetings with minimal adult intervention.
- A system for submitting class votes and pupil comments.
- Aggregated reports to show school-wide feedback and insights.
- The platform is designed to be easy, fast, and integrated into existing routines - no extra admin burden.
- The communications team (made up of pupils) selects questions from a bank of over 2,000 topics.
- Each class holds a short meeting, led by pupils, to discuss and debate the question.
- Classes vote, record their responses, and submit them via the platform.
- The communications team and staff review results, share outcomes in assemblies, and take action.
- Regular feedback loops give the children a sense of ownership: “We asked - You said - We did.”

Skills SSC helps build in every child: - *Supporting British Values, Personal Development, Oracy and SMSC*

- Leadership and facilitation
- Confidence in public speaking
- Active listening
- Critical thinking and respectful debate
- Empathy and community awareness
- Responsibility and collaborative problem-solving

Why teachers love it:

- Helps fulfil Ofsted personal development criteria.
- Creates stronger classroom relationships and a positive school culture.
- Encourages quieter pupils to find their voice.
- Supports discussions on everything from well-being to current affairs.

Affordable and accessible

- £300–£400 per year, for the whole school.
- PTA fundraisers can easily cover the cost.
- No software installations required - just a web login
- Advocate programme available for discounts.

“It’s not just another thing on the to-do list — it’s embedded, it’s natural, and the children love it.”

Rachel Gray - Teacher