



*Elmley Dray
School*

Learner Voice Policy

Our Active Listening Culture

Every child and young person has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously. (UN Convention of Rights Article 12)

Elmley Dray School exists to support the personal and academic development of learners (children and vulnerable adults), and listening to the views of both teachers and learners will enable the educational provision to move forward in a dynamic and evolving way meeting the ever changing demands placed upon the community (Dana, 1993; Rudduck 2003). Further to this Elmley Dray School is a community interest company (CIC) which actively listens to the voice of parents/carers as they seek advice and guidance from the organisation to improve life chances for their children.

The development of an active listening culture has the potential to provide a culture of valuing every member of the school team, with the views of all stakeholders recognised as an important contribution towards supporting change in an open, honest and collaborative way (Cooper and McIntyre, 1996).

At Elmley Dray School, we view our learners regardless of age or ability, not as passive, but constructivist learners actively making sense and meaning of the information through interacting with it. We respect the learners as individuals and empower them within learner Voice to take an active part in a dynamic, engaging and empowering activity.

Principles

Learner voice activities have a direct impact on the individuals who have their voices heard. The learner voice programme supports the development of speaking and listening skills for all our learners, raises self-esteem and confidence to contribute to a group ethos. Learner voice meetings happen within Elmley Dray School tutor times, and the voice of the learner is encouraged through the learnervoice@elmleydrayschool.co.uk email, suggestions box and ideas shared by a learner are considered. Learners at our school are encouraged to feel a sense of ownership of their educational provision as well as their future aspirations.

Opportunities to gather learner voice permeate and inform all areas of the school provision through:

1. Learner voice/council meetings which are minuted and shared with the Leadership team, Directors and PAT.
2. Email, suggestion box, and verbal communication of the learners' views, which are shared with the Elmley Dray School team, as appropriate.
3. Evaluation of the learning experience through peer and/or self-assessment;
4. Systematic collection and evaluation of the views of learners, across the spectrum of their Elmley Dray School experience.

Version control - Approval and review

Version No.	Approved By	Approval Date	Main Change	Review Period
1	Hayley Furnell	October 2024	Initial policy approved	Annually
1.1	Hayley Furnell	August 2025	Annual review, updated to include the suggestion box	Annually



Hayley Furnell, Director,

on behalf of Elmley Dray School

Dated: August 2025

Next review: August 2026