




ISSU


IRISH SECOND-LEVEL
STUDENTS' UNION

STUDENT COUNCILS DURING COVID-19

**HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE STUDENT VOICE IN YOUR
SCHOOL**



**We, as students,
need the space to
advocate for our own
needs and priorities
now, more than ever!**



Reuban Murray & Tara Toye
President & Student Council Support Officer
Irish Second-Level Students' Union

HOW TO HOLD ONLINE ELECTIONS

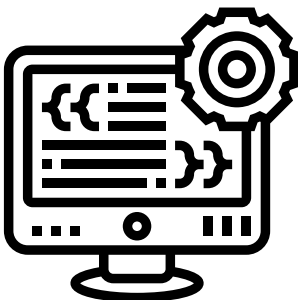
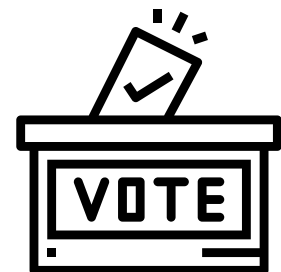


NOMINATING

Every student should have an equal right to vote and run for election. The student council should at minimum have two students from each year group.

VOTING

Google forms can be used to make an online form where you can upload a manifesto for each candidate and students can choose which candidate they want to vote for. This can be sent to all students' school emails and you can set it up so that no students can respond twice.

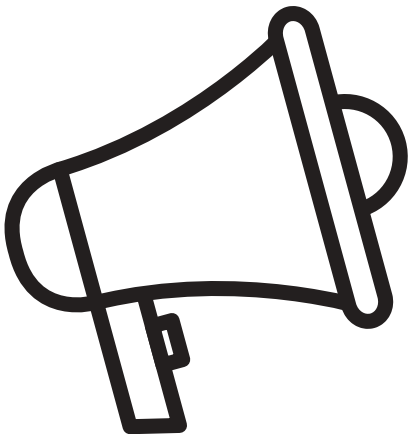


SOFTWARE

We would encourage you to hold Zoom / Google Hangouts / Microsoft Teams for elections and meetings, using polls and video calls that are built into the software.

COMMUNICATION

- There should be a form of online communication available for the student council set up with the assistance of the student council liaison.
- A student council email could be used as a form of communication, whereby the students could email concerns.
- It is important now, more than ever that social media is used to spread information to students and the rest of the school community effectively while online learning takes place.



- Keeping connected with the ISSU through our social media (@ISSU4U) and our Newsletter.
- Electing an ISSU school rep on your student council dedicates the job of maintaining contact with your union.

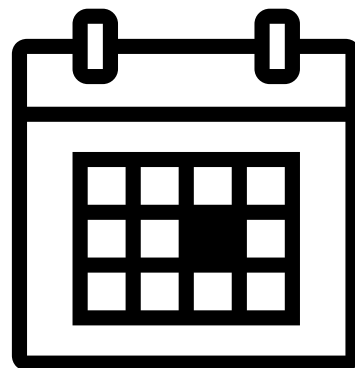
Stay connected through Whatsapp, Hangouts, Teams and Google Classroom, you should be communicating between meetings!

ONLINE MEETINGS



- Ensure everyone is fully participating by giving everyone time to speak
- As in normal meetings, the student council should have time to discuss without the liaison present.
- Use powerpoints and/or interactive tools to keep everyone engaged.

- Use this time to prepare the foundations of future events or fundraisers for the future.
- Work on issues that appeal to schools now; online learning, access to technology, communication



Use this time to work on organisation or documentation edits or updates. EG. Constitution.

Structure and prepare for proposals or presentations to staff, parents council or the Board of Management.

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SOCIALLY DISTANCED MEETINGS

With smaller councils it may be possible to hold a social-distanced meeting in a large area such as a PE Hall.

SANITISE

Desks, chairs and door handles will need to be sanitised before and after every use.



WEAR A MASK

If the student council is being held in person, ask students to wear masks while in the meeting.

SIT IN PODS

Have each year group sit together to avoid further contact with more students i.e. the two fifth year council members would sit together
1-2 meters apart.

Make use of the school library, gym or an empty classroom.



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ONLINE TOOLS

1. Google classroom
2. Google meets
3. Zoom
4. Mentimeter
5. Mural.com
6. Jamboard
7. TeamsForms (Google and Microsoft)
8. Powerpoint / Slides



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