

UTC READING

Student Voice Policy

Introduction

At UTC Reading (UTC) we transform educational outcomes by providing exciting, new and different opportunities for learning and applied learning. As a vibrant centre of learning we bring about a substantial increase in the educational attainment, expectations and aspirations of students and the whole community.

Aim

We aim to seek to achieve a high quality learning experience for every student. We strive for consistently high levels of performance in all aspects of our work. We treat everyone with respect. We encourage openness and honesty and we recognise each other's' contributions and achievements. Student Voice is the set of systems through which young people are enabled to give their opinions and suggestions on UTC life in an open, honest, secure, yet constructive way.

At the UTC we believe that all students are entitled to contribute actively in shaping the educational experience they and their fellow students receive. Effective delivery of this policy will give them the opportunity to do so. As well as assisting in young people's learning and social development, such student involvement is also of active benefit to the UTC's performance.

Rationale

- To facilitate active student engagement in learning and the wider life of the UTC community
- To nurture the skills and attitudes required to develop responsibility, independence, teamwork and communication skills through relationships between students and staff
- To embed a culture where students have high expectations of themselves, their peers and UTC's staff
- To use the projects designed to support the specialism in Computer Science and Engineering to develop students' leadership capacity and skills

- To design appropriate curriculum and enrichment opportunities for students to formally voice their views within and beyond the curriculum.
- To give students leadership experience and direct impact over UTC Reading as part of the student executive board

Necessary Components for an Effective Student Voice

A safe environment where student views are collected in a structured way

- Clear parameters to the areas of the UTC life where Student Voice is appropriate and useful
- Visible outcomes to Student Voice exercises
- UTC staff, particularly teachers, feel secure about and supportive of the Student Voice policy
- A shared understanding of expectations and standards
- A common language of learning amongst all members of the UTC community
- Students who are empowered to be active learners.

Roles and Responsibilities

Students

- To engage fully in their learning, developing a fuller understanding of their own progress and the importance of their contribution to the UTC's development
- To take part constructively and responsibly in self and peer assessment exercises and in the evaluation of the UTC's activities (including teaching and lessons)
- To contribute to Company discussions within and beyond their Company group, improving verbal communication and discussion skills and developing their ability to negotiate, compromise and operate as effective team members
- To take responsibility for their environment, academic progress, involvement in the wider UTC life and behaviour.
- To have the opportunity to join the student leadership team taking a greater and more direct role in the leadership of UTC Reading

Parents and Guardians

To support the policy by encouraging their children to be active and constructive participants in Student Voice projects

Teachers

- To be comfortable about receiving constructive criticism and to act upon it proactively
- To regularly seek student feedback regarding teaching and learning activities through formal (e.g. questionnaires/surveys) and informal (e.g. conversations) to encourage and make use of Student Voice
- To use a wide range of assessment for learning techniques, in particular self and peer assessment, to encourage debate about targets, progress and standards
- To offer students the opportunity to develop their independent learning through project work.
- To ensure assessment for learning and opportunities to increase independent learning skills are embedded in schemes of work and resources
- To use student feedback as a key strategy to monitor and evaluate the quality of teaching and learning
- To promote opportunities for students to take ownership of their learning.

Leadership Team

- To provide every student with the opportunity to contribute to student voice activities
- To devise clear structures and systems to promote Student Voice
- To provide a budget to properly resource Student Voice activities
- To use regular student feedback data to inform planning, teaching and learning strategies and the wider UTC life
- To use Company meetings and other methods to promote the work of the Student Board.
- To ensure the student board is able to contribute to the decision making process especially decisions that directly impact on the student experience at UTC Reading

Board of Governors

- To support projects and development of the Student Voice policy
- To support and be familiar with the key achievements of the Student Board

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The policy is reviewed annually by the Principal and Board of Governors of the UTC Reading.

Date created: June 2013
Date agreed: July 2013
Date of Review: August 2014
Review: December 2016
Date of next review: December 2019