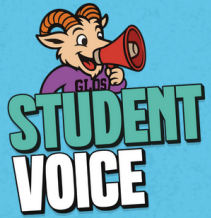


STUDENT COUNCIL



Asking the Right Questions

Asking strong and thoughtful questions helps Council understand issues clearly, explore different viewpoints and make decisions that are fair, realistic and rooted in student experience. Questions are not used to catch people out. They are there to bring clarity, build shared understanding and make sure Council decisions are grounded in evidence and student need rather than assumptions.

Before asking a question, take a moment to work out what you want to understand. You may want clarity about the purpose of a proposal, the evidence behind it, how it will affect students or whether the suggested actions are realistic. Open and neutral questions often lead to clearer answers than yes or no questions and encourage more inclusive discussion.

Useful question starters include:

- Can you explain what problem this is trying to solve
- What evidence or feedback shows this is a priority
- How will this affect different groups of students
- What would success look like and how would we measure it
- What support, budget or partnership would be needed
- Are there any risks, limitations or unintended consequences

You can also ask questions that centre fairness and student experience. For example:

- Has this been tested with students who might find this harder to access
- Who might be left out of this and how can we include them

If you still feel unsure or something does not seem clear, it is completely appropriate to say so and ask for more information before voting. Thoughtful curiosity strengthens democracy and improves accountability in a respectful way.