NUSS
National Union of School Students

Information pack for teachers

Welcome to the National Union of School Students (NUSS), we're so excited that your school has joined! NUSS is the national union representing secondary school students, including sixth form students, across England, Scotland and Wales.

We're building a strong, democratic movement of school students, taking action on the issues that matter - from education and mental health to the climate crisis and the cost of living.

What's your role?

As a staff member you'll play a key role in making sure students at your school can actively participate in NUSS' democracy.

Each year, as a member of NUSS, **your school council will be asked to select NUSS reps.** The role of the NUSS reps will be to play an active part in NUSS campaigns throughout the year, collect the views of students in your school to shape NUSS' priorities, and attend our online events as your school's

representative. They'll also have the opportunity to put themselves forward for an NUSS National Leadership position.

The NUSS rep role is incredibly important for ensuring that your school students' voices contribute to the collective power of NUSS year round. **We need reps who are used to advocating for their peers,** and who can contribute to discussions about the problems students are facing. Therefore we ask that you **put forward reps who have been elected to your student council.**

If you need a helping hand with setting up your school council, and ensuring it's democratic and representative, take a look at our guide.

Members of your school council will be responsible for selecting their NUSS reps each year. As a staff member your role will be to guide them through this process, and ensure it's done fairly.

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Selecting your NUSS reps

There is no requirement to hold an election specifically for your NUSS reps. As long as all members of your school council are given an equal chance to put themselves forward, it's up to you how your NUSS reps are selected.

For example, you could hold a vote at a school council meeting, or come to an agreement by consensus among members of your school council.

You should do your best to **ensure that reps are able to speak to the diversity of students' experiences**, and that disabled, LGBTQ+, trans, racialised and women students are actively encouraged to put themselves forward. Take a look at our Democracy and Inclusion guide for more info on this.

The **number of reps your school is entitled to will depend on the size of your school**. Rep entitlements are as follows:

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Student numbers	Number of reps
<500	2
500 - 999	3
1000 - 1499	4
1500 - 1999	5
2000+	6

We ask school councils to select NUSS reps each academic year, as early in the year as possible once your school council has been elected.

Share our info pack with students on your school council so they understand what being a rep involves and are encouraged to put themselves forward.

Once your school council has selected your NUSS reps, please **fill out this form to let us know who your reps are**.

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Note, for safeguarding reasons we won't contact your NUSS reps directly; **as the key staff contact please make sure you keep an eye out for emails from us** and pass relevant information on to your NUSS reps.

How can other students get involved?

NUSS reps help us ensure that each member school council can take part in our democracy and attend our events. You may have other students who want to get involved in NUSS, and we would very much encourage this.

Limits on participation are only set with regards to NUSS democratic activity and events. **Our campaigns and influencing events and activities are open to all students.** Direct students to this page on our website for more information about how they can get involved.

Thank you so much for helping make sure school students can come together to create real change. If you have any questions **please don't hesitate to get in touch on staff@nuss.org.uk.**