

## Proportional Representation System

### Ballot Paper for School Council

**School:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Class:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please rank the candidates from 1 to 5 in order of preference, 1 being your first choice of candidate and 5 being your last choice. Votes will be counted using the proportional representation system. The top candidate(s) under this system will be elected.



<input type="checkbox"/>	Candidate 1 (Name) _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Candidate 2 (Name) _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Candidate 3 (Name) _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Candidate 4 (Name) _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Candidate 5 (Name) _____

Note: Candidates are listed in alphabetical order

When using the proportional representation system the candidate that reaches the quota will be elected. The voter ranks the candidates in order of preference with 1 being the most preferred. This is so that if the first choice of candidate does not get elected, the voters' second, third and fourth choices are clearly indicated.

The quota for each candidate can be worked out by using the following guide:

1. Number of positions available plus 1
2. Divide this figure by the number of votes
3. Add 1



For example: A class of 40 pupils votes to elect 1 representative. This gives a quota of 21.

1. One position available:  $1 + 1 = 2$
2. Number of votes = 40:  $40/2 = 20$
3.  $20 + 1 = 21$

Therefore, the quota for this election is 21. Candidates that reach this quota will be elected. If none of the candidates reach the quota the candidate with the least number of votes is automatically eliminated and their second preference votes are distributed amongst the remaining candidates. This is done until a candidate reaches the quota and they are elected.

Go to [http://www.studentcouncil.ie/setting\\_up\\_a\\_student\\_council/](http://www.studentcouncil.ie/setting_up_a_student_council/) and view **Section 7** of the **Student Council Resource Pack** for further information on elections.

