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# Mala News

## Patrons

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An action programme for the elimination of child labour in rural India

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Greetings!

## School council

As part of our commitment to being a child centred organisation, each Project Mala school has a school council. Recently elections have taken place for a new school council for each of our six schools - Guria, Mujehra, Turkahan, Patehra, Hasra and Amoi.



Two representatives are chosen from each class – one boy and one girl – and voting is conducted by the children who are quite serious about the process. This is just like the general elections in India with voting booths and making sure that there is no cheating by marking the child's hand after voting ([See short 2 min film](#)).

The school council meets regularly to debate school policy and to bring to the attention of the teaching and management teams anything that is causing problems in the school. Individual pupils take their suggestions to their representative who brings it up for debate at the council meeting. A representative from senior management is present at the council meetings, however, the school council is run by and for the pupils. It is considered an honour to be chosen as a councillor and it shows that you are trusted and respected by your peers.



Attending school council meetings helps children express their views confidently in front of their schoolmates and senior management. The management team seeks to respond quickly to any concerns, which makes the pupils feel that they have a stake and a voice in the running of the school, rather than being passive recipients.

Newsletter written by Anne Gilmour.

If you can think of anyone that might be interested to read this newsletter, please pass it on.

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