



STUDENT WELFARE:  
**STUDENT PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP  
POLICY**

**Ratified by School Council: August 2015**

**Review date: July 2018**

## 1. CONTEXT

At Selby Primary School we believe that school life should provide many opportunities for students to be active participants in their learning and to contribute to the decision making process of our school. The Junior School Council, Social Service, other student leadership roles and the House System are just some of examples of programs that provide students with an opportunity to have their say in future directions of our school.

## 2. OBJECTIVES

- To develop within students an awareness and appreciation of the challenges facing other people, especially children, and a desire to help people in need.
- To provide a formal opportunity for students to recognise and assist those who are less fortunate.
- To provide formal and informal opportunities to develop individuals as leaders.
- To provide opportunities to voice concerns, make suggestions and participate in decision-making.
- To provide children with a sense of belonging through a range of competitive and non-competitive activities engendering positive attitudes, team spirit and loyalty.
- To provide opportunities to strengthen student relationships across the school.
- To provide opportunities to strengthen student / teacher relationships.
- To build a culture of mutual respect and consideration.

## 3. IMPLEMENTATION

### Student Participation in Decision Making

- A range of formal and informal strategies are utilised to canvass the views of students on their school experience and future projects. These include the Year 5/6 Attitudes to Schools Survey conducted annually, online surveys, student forums, focus groups, suggestions boxes and class meetings in addition to the formal roles and opportunities outlined below.
- Any ideas suggested by students are considered by a combination of Junior School Council, school leadership and/or staff.

### Student Leadership Positions

- In preparation for the following year, the senior school co-ordinator, staff and student leaders review the range and roles of formal leadership positions available to students for the following year. A timeline is developed and distributed to all year 4 and 5 students (Appendix A) along with an overview of the different roles being offered for that particular year.
- Commencing with the most significant student leadership roles (School Captains), students have the opportunity to nominate for the position/s, before presenting a speech and students voting on the position. Votes are then tallied and announced to candidates, before announcing the results to the wider school community.
- Once the school captain positions are finalised, other student leadership positions are determined by a similar process.

**Respect**

**High Expectations**

**Resilience**

**Confidence**

- Eligibility for School Captain positions is restricted to year 6 students, whilst all other positions are open to year 5 and 6 with priority given to year 6 students where appropriate. Staff are consulted on the appropriateness of candidates.

### **Junior School Council and Social Service**

The role of the Junior School Council is to make recommendations about matters that directly affect the student body.

- Each class conducts elections in term 1 to determine the class representative for that year. Students elected to this position in the previous year are not eligible for the role in the following year.
- Each class has a suggestions box that the Junior School Councillor takes to meetings.
- The Junior School Council representatives attend meetings and are responsible for reporting back the content of these meetings to their class. An agenda is prepared for each meeting and minutes of the meeting are recorded and shared with classes.
- The co-ordinating teacher of Junior School Council may seek feedback from staff at a Staff Meeting regarding the practicalities of Junior School Council suggestions.
- Every month, classes hold elections to nominate candidates for the Aussie of the Month award. The Junior School Council selects a junior and senior school Aussie of the Month winner from the nominations and presents certificates at assembly.
- Junior School Council is encouraged to raise awareness of, and provide opportunities to support, a variety of local, national and international causes. The aims and outcomes of Junior School Council and Social Service activities are communicated throughout the school community via a range of media. These may include posters, newsletter inserts, assemblies or newspaper articles when appropriate.
- Junior School Council is responsible for overseeing Social Service projects initiated and/or directly related to the student body.
- Junior School Council advertises and collects money raised by classes to support a foster child.
- Junior School Councillors are invited to attend a School Council meeting to reflect on their experiences and share their thoughts with School Council towards the end of the year.

### **House System**

- Each child at Selby Primary School is assigned to one of four houses named after local pioneers significant to the history of Selby: Maskell, Morley, Temple and Tye. All members of a family are placed in the same house.
- House captains and vice captains are elected early in the school year. Any student in grades 5 and 6 is eligible to stand for election for their particular house, however staff are consulted as to the appropriateness of the selection.
- Year 5 and 6 students are able to vote for their preferred male and female candidate for their particular house
- A house competition that encourages appropriate behaviour and good citizenship is conducted. The House Points Monitors tally and share the results at assembly each fortnight, with a shield presented at the end of the year.
- A house sports day, emphasising participation of all children, is conducted annually with the winning house being presented the athletics shield.

#### **4. APPENDICES**

Year 5/6 Student Leadership Election Information and Timeline

#### **5. RELATED POLICIES**

Bullying policy

Student engagement and welfare policy

#### **6. EVALUATION**

This policy will be reviewed three yearly or more often if necessary due to changes in regulations or circumstances.

## APPENDIX A

### Year 5/6 Student Leadership Election Information and Timeline

Whilst we believe all of our students should (and do) demonstrate leadership qualities, there are always some outstanding candidates who show they are willing to go above and beyond what is expected of the average student. Some of the qualities that have been identified for student leaders include:

- ☑ Being able to work with others and help everyone know their role
- ☑ Being someone who listens to other people
- ☑ Being a person who can make a decision
- ☑ Being responsible, reliable and organised
- ☑ Being prepared to help other people and not always think of yourself.

As our current year 4 and 5 students look forward to years 5 and 6, there will be many opportunities for each child to partake in a number of formal and informal leadership roles. The first leaders to be selected are our School Captains, Vice Captains and House Captains. Next year we will complete the remaining leadership positions, before moving onto the monitor positions. Students in Year 5 may also have the opportunity to be involved in Peer Support or Reading Buddies, along with opportunities to be a Junior School Councillor. Below, I have listed some of the different formal leadership positions that will be available and which students are eligible.

- School Captains- one male and one female year 6 student
- School Vice- Captains- one male and one female year 6 student
- House Captains- one male and one female year 5 or 6 student for each house
- Vice- House Captains- one male and one female year 5 or 6 student for each house
- Assembly Monitors – Year 6 students to help set up and pack up assembly each week
- Office Monitors- Year 6 students to help in the office at various times
- Lunch order monitors- Year 6 students to collect lunch orders from each class daily and then deliver them just before lunch time
- ICT Captains- Year 6 students to set up laptops for classes
- House Points Monitors- Year 6 students to collect House Points each week and then present at assembly
- Social Service Monitors- Year 6 students to collect, count and present social service at assembly regularly
- Kitchen Classroom Monitors- Year 6 students to support the implementation of this program
- Icy Pole Monitors- Year 6 students to support parents with organising and selling the icy poles each Friday in terms 1 and 4.

The timeline, which is outlined below, provides a guide as to when the different parts of the process will take place.

Timing	What
Early October	All current year 4, 5 and 6 students meet to review the leadership positions and timeline. School Captain positions are declared open.
Mid October	School Captain elections- Mr Butler to meet with nominees.
	School Captain nominations close and speeches commence in the library.
	Nominees find out the results.
	School Captains for 2015 presented at assembly.
Late October	Vice School Captain nominations open and preparation of speeches.
	Nominated Vice School Captains meet with Mr Butler.
Early November	Vice-captain speeches.
Mid November	House Vice and Captain Nominations open.
	House Vice and Captain Speeches.
	Speeches cont. in the Library.
Late November	House and Vice captains announced at Assembly.