

STUDENT LEADERSHIP POLICY

PURPOSE

Strathfieldsaye Primary School's Student Leadership structure provides students with the opportunity to actively participate in decision-making processes at school. Students are encouraged to take on leadership roles in an endeavour to develop their own leadership skills, act as positive role models for the student body and offer responsible service to their school, peers and the community. Democratically elected student leaders represent the student body and their school in a wide range of forums at school and in the community to help *shape* a positive future.

GUIDELINES

Student leaders will aim to:

- demonstrate and uphold the school's core values and promote school spirit
- represent and voice the opinions, rights and responsibilities of the student body
- communicate and liaise with staff and community organisations
- support students within the school community by recognising student achievements
- encourage student participation and promote leadership
- provide the school with regular reports on school activities and achievements
- facilitate support for nominated charities
- organise and promote social and academic pursuits for students
- provide advice to the school's Leadership Team on student needs within the school
- help to ensure that a safe, positive and challenging learning environment is maintained within the school

IMPLEMENTATION

Students will be provided with the opportunity to participate in the following leadership structures:

SCHOOL CAPTAINS

Four School Captains from Year 6 will be chosen through a formal selection process, involving nomination and interview. A candidate for School Captain will be expected to:

- Display good leadership skills
- Show willingness to assist at different levels including peers, teachers, support staff and visitors
- Be a role model in the classroom, playground and sporting events
- Display exemplary behaviour at all times
- Take responsibility for his/her actions at all times
- Show respect for peers and adults at all times
- Uphold all school and classroom rules
- Participate and try his/her best in all school events
- Show pride in self and Strathfieldsaye Primary School
- Be actively involved in all school activities

The role of a school captain will include:

- representing the school and liaising with the Principal and other members of the Leadership Team on school and community activities
- representing the school at official functions within and outside the school
- preparing, leading and taking responsibility for the running of weekly school assemblies and assisting JSC members to prepare for their assembly week
- participating in any Student Leaders Program
- Leading Junior School Council
- Supporting future leaders with the application process

School Captain Election Process

In order to ensure the selection of the best possible candidates for the School Captain role, the following process will be implemented.

- Guidelines and criteria for student leadership will be shared with Year 5 students in the first week of Term 4.
- Interested Year 5 students will be given the opportunity to nominate themselves to be considered for the role of School Captain. This will be done through an application that addresses specific criteria that are related to the role.
- All applications must contain at least one adult referee from the school.
- Nominated students will be invited to prepare a short speech for the grade 3-6 student body (up to 3 minutes) that will include their reasons why they believe they would be a good school captain.
- After candidates have presented, ballots will be distributed to all students in grade 3-6.
- Voting students will number all candidates in order of preference in their classrooms.
- Votes will be collected by room teachers and returned to the Principal.
- A panel consisting of the Principal, Assistant Principal, Leading Teacher and 1-2 school captains will interview each candidate. The panel may seek input from other staff members.
- The panel will count the votes and will take student voice into consideration during the interview process. A shortlist will then be created from these presentations/votes.
- The Principal will organise an interview schedule in consultation with the Year 5 teachers.
- The four most promising candidates will be selected as the School Captains for the following year.
- When the panel have reached a decision, it will not be open to discussion or reconsideration once made.
- The successful candidates and their families will be informed privately before the house captain elections and asked to withdraw themselves from consideration for House Captain the following year.
- The school captaincy will be officially handed over at the graduation ceremony in December of the year before.
- School captains will give an acceptance speech at the graduation ceremony and the first assembly of the school year.

HOUSE CAPTAINS

Two Grade 6 House Captains and two Vice-House Captains will be elected for each House: Somerville, Mannes, Bowles and Ryall.

House Captains will be elected by their House peers from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6.

House Captains will represent and promote their individual House and the school and liaise with the appointed Student Leadership Coordinator on school and community projects as appropriate.

The role of a house captain will include:

- Assisting the PE teacher with the training and set up of athletic events
- Helping with the training of House relay teams
- Assisting with the organisation and delivery of notes to take home as required
- Supporting their House teams at sporting events by encouraging crowd chants/House songs and cheering during participation
- Helping to set up for the School Cross Country and Lapathon
- Displaying sportsmanship at all times during all school sporting events
- Helping to distribute sporting equipment at break times
- Helping to maintain the organisation of the sports shed
- Any other supporting duties as required by the PE teacher

House Captain Election Process

In order to ensure the selection of the best possible candidates for the House Captain roles, the following process will be implemented:

- Guidelines and criteria for student leadership will be reviewed with Year 6 students 3 weeks prior to House Captain Elections.
- Interested Year 6 students will be given the opportunity to nominate themselves to be considered for the role of House Captain.
- Names and photographs of candidates will be shown in Year 3 to 5 classrooms for 2 weeks prior to the elections.
- On the day of the election, Year 3 to 5 students will be gathered in the senior building and the criteria for student leadership reviewed with them again.
- Students will be sorted into 4 separate rooms according to their house
- Criteria for House Captains will be displayed in each classroom.
- In each room, House Captain Candidates will give a short speech addressing how they fit the criteria displayed.
- After all candidates have spoken, ballots will be distributed.
- Voting students will number all candidates in order of preference.
- Votes will be collected by room teachers and returned to the Assistant Principal.
- The Assistant Principal will count the votes and with input from House staff, determine two House Captains and two Vice Captains for each house.
- Winning Candidate names will be shared with Leadership Team.
- The families of winning candidates will be contacted before the new student leaders are announced.

JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL (JSC)

Junior School Council plays an important role in the decisions made across the school. The JSC represent the voice of all students.

The role of a Junior School Councillor will include:

- Organising fundraising activities for a range of charities
- Leading school assemblies
- Attending meetings during lunch time
- Helping to lead VIP around the school where appropriate
- Actively participating in all school activities and displaying our CORE values

Junior School Council Election Process

The JSC will be elected annually by all students, consisting of three elected representatives from each Grade in Years 3 to 6. The JSC will include the following:

- The two with the greatest number of classroom votes will be considered as the active representatives for their group. The student with next number of votes will be offered an alternative position as Vice JSC.
- Co-Presidents will be made up of School Captains.
- Regularly attending scheduled meetings and reporting back to their grades.
- Helping to organise and coordinate fundraising activities, ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies

Two appointed staff members will oversee the Council and assist in the implementation and coordination of all SRC projects and activities.

BE YOU STUDENT WELLBEING TEAM

Students from grades 5 – 6 will have the opportunity to be a part of the Be You Student Wellbeing Team. This team is the voice of student wellbeing across the school and is responsible for supporting other students to achieve their best possible mental health.

The role of a Be You Student Wellbeing Leader will include:

- Supporting the Be You coordinating teacher by turning up to meetings and actively contributing ideas to planning discussions
- Working in a team to plan various activities
- Supporting school tours and VIP visits
- Greeting at the school gate on a roster system
- Facilitating and leading the 'Have Your Say Days' at lunchtimes in the Community Room
- Facilitating and leading the Values Day activities
- Promoting positive school connections by acting as yard buddies
- Supporting lunch clubs where possible

Be You Student Wellbeing Team election process

In order to ensure the selection of the best possible candidates for the Be You Student Wellbeing Team role, the following process will be implemented:

- Guidelines and criteria for student leadership will be shared with Gr 4-5 students in Term 4.
- Interested Year 5 and 6 students will be given the opportunity to nominate themselves for the Be You team of the following year.
- All nominating students will be required to complete an application that addresses specific criteria that are related to the role.
- The Be You Team Leader (teacher) will then complete the selection process in conjunction with the Assistant Principal.
- The size of the Be You Student Wellbeing team will be at the discretion of the Be You Team Leader and Assistant Principal.
- Be You nominees will be expected to display our CORE values both in and out of the classroom as well as the following traits: caring, empathy, able to listen to others, kind and organised.

ABORIGINAL YOUNG LEADERS

It is important that Strathfieldsaye Primary School continues to foster greater connection and understanding of our indigenous community. Young Aboriginal Leaders play an important role in our school.

The role of an Aboriginal Young Leader will include:

- Leading the Acknowledgement/Welcome to Country (Dja Dja Wurrung) at assemblies and special functions
- Acting as proud ambassadors for their people
- Helping to implement their culture and voice into school activities where sensitively appropriate
- Working with the Principal to develop ideas that foster greater connections between home and school

Young Aboriginal Leader Selection Process

All young aboriginal people at our school have the opportunity to nominate themselves for this role. They will be required to partake in the following process:

- Meeting with the Principal to share their ideas for the year ahead, choosing from a variety of methods (writing, drawing, creating)
- Going over the prospective role with the principal
- The principal and young aboriginal students will then work together to decide on which students will represent the school as the Young Aboriginal Leaders for that year

All Strathfieldsaye Primary School student leaders are valued as integral to the Student Leadership structure. Student leaders are inducted at a special leadership assembly where they are introduced to the community and presented with their badge. They pledge their allegiance to the school and its core values to work together with the school to help shape a positive future.

Should any student leader at Strathfieldsaye Primary School be found to be not upholding our values, be involved in any high level incident or not be participating in learning activities on a regular basis then their leadership position may be revoked at the discretion of the Principal.

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was ratified by School Council in November 2019 and will be reviewed in 2022.