



**ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
PORT MACQUARIE**

STUDENT LEADERSHIP POLICY

St Joseph's Primary School Port Macquarie

OUR VISION

"ONE IN CHRIST"

OUR MISSION

At St Joseph's Primary School we will

- Give witness to Christian values
- Respect the dignity and sacredness of each student
- Work with the parents to build up within the child an awareness of the presence of God
- Endeavour to discern and fully develop the potential of each student
- Foster a love for learning
- Create a happy, accepting and enriching environment

Student Leadership Policy **June 2020**

Rationale

Our school is a partnership between teachers, parents, students and the community. Student input (voice, choice and influence) into formal decision-making is integral to our mutual success. A formal and structured Student Leadership Program will provide a forum for students to express their ideas, and to have them heard.

Aspects of this process have included:

- Developing a Year 5 program to develop student leadership skills and understandings.
- Preparation for Year 5 students (completed in Term 3 and 4 each year).
- Providing greater opportunities for all Year 6 students to contribute to our school community.
- Revision of the Peer Support and Buddy Programs.
- Adjusting the nomination process and speech presentation with a focus on leadership development rather than popularity, including allowing Year 5 peers to vote for final nominations before speech presentation.
- Developing a criteria for writing a Resume for eligibility for formal student leadership opportunities.

Leadership is a skill that must be developed; it can't be switched on simply when someone is elected to a role. In order to be eligible for a student leadership role each year, students will need to engage in preparation. Over their time at St Joseph's students are encouraged to participate in community service, extra-curricular and faith activities. These experiences, along with the identification of personal attitudes, mindset, attributes and skills will form the basis of their Resume. The children will write their Resume in Year 5 in class with the support of their teachers.

Aim

To provide the students of St Joseph's Primary School with effective and authentic opportunities to develop skills in leadership through planned and facilitated experiences.

Year 6 students at St Joseph's Primary School will have opportunities to engage in leadership experiences through:

1. School Captaincy and Student Representative Council
2. Sports House Captains
3. Peer Support Program Leadership
4. Year 1 Buddies
5. Mini Vinnies
6. Sustainability Committee, Creative Arts Committee, Christ Centered Committee, Indigenous Committee, Technology Committee, Hospitality Committee, Events Committee, Library Committee.

Implementation

1. School Captaincy and Student Representative Council (SRC)

Selection Process:

- Students are involved in a Leadership Day to explore the roles and responsibilities of leaders at St Joseph's and initiate the leadership process.
- Students are supported at school to write a personal Resume using a set proforma with subheadings to guide the students.
- Students nominate themselves or other students for SRC. They need to accept the nomination and show that they have a history of service and participation that gives them the experience to be an effective leader.
- Nominations are finalised by teachers. Year 5 votes to select a total of eight girls and eight boys. A preferential system of 3, 2, 1 is used to vote.
- The sixteen students revisit their Resume and are given time and support at school to write a persuasive speech about their leadership qualities and promote their ideas for their leadership year (ie. 2021).
- The selected sixteen students present their speeches to the students in Year 3 to 6, parents and staff (In 2020, this will be if COVID-19 restrictions permit). Students and staff vote using a preferential system. From this four boys and four girls are selected.
- The SRC are announced to Year 5 and communicated to the parents of the newly elected leaders, followed by the rest of the school community.
- The SRC spend the remainder of Term 4 working with the current SRC as an induction.
- Year 5 Retreat - Two days are spent reflecting on what makes a good leader, looking at specific leadership qualities and attributes, and building a team approach to leadership for all students.
- Students are formally inducted as School Captains at the Year school Mass early in the following year. This ceremony includes the leaders being presented with their blessed badges and parents being invited to attend the ceremony.

Responsibilities:

- The SRC meets each fortnight to discuss ways in which they can assist in service and social justice initiatives both within the school and within our wider community. As required, they present oral reports to the school via school assemblies.
- The SRC facilitates the K-6 Student Forum with the assistance of supporting staff.

- Our SRC, at times, represents our school at community events, including the ANZAC Day Ceremony and Remembrance Day Ceremony each year.
- SRC members receive formation in leadership skills and present themselves in full school uniform when required.
- Model exceptional behaviour and conduct with others consistently.

Kinder to Year 6 Student Forum

A boy and girl class representative are elected each term in each class. These student leaders are assisted to gather feedback from their class and bring it to the Student Forum each fortnight. The SRC facilitates the Student Forum with the assistance of supporting staff. Students work within the community to make a positive difference to their school.

2. Sport House Captains

Selection Process:

- After the SRC is announced, students nominate themselves for Sport House Captains and are given time and support at school to write a persuasive speech about their leadership qualities.
- Speeches are presented to their respective Year 3 to 6 Sport House students and staff. A preferential voting system determines the successful Sport House Captains.
- The Sport House Captains are announced.

Responsibilities:

Sport House Captains will assist the Sports Co-ordinator in:

- Running fitness programs.
- Maintaining the sports storage room.
- Helping to manage their Sports House at School Carnivals.

Removal of Student Leadership Roles

The process of leadership formation includes an understanding of the responsibility to model exceptional behaviour and conduct with others consistently.

Following the acceptance of formal leadership roles, students are aware that they can be relieved of their position when behaviour and conduct are not consistent with the standards expected of student leadership.

Incidents occurring at school or on excursions outside of school will follow school disciplinary processes and can result in the removal of their leadership position. These include, but are not limited to, serious or repeated cases of physical or verbal aggression, threatening language or behaviour, failure to follow school expectations and disrespectful behaviour towards students, staff and members of the community.

3. Peer Support Program Leadership - Vertical Peer Groupings

Students work in vertical peer groups annually to assist students in developing relationships across all age groups. This allows Year 6 and Year 5 students to experience leadership through a non-elected leadership role. The groups learn about a variety of social and emotional skills and competencies through the program.

4. Year 1 Buddies

Year 6 students developed positive relationships with their Kindergarten Buddies in Year 5. They continue to work with the Year 1 and Year 6 teachers on ways in which they can build these relationships and support their Year 1 Buddies.

5. Mini Vinnies Social Justice Committee

Year 6 students are invited to join Mini Vinnies and contribute to our school and community through Catholic social justice activities. Students nominate themselves to be a part of the Mini Vinnies Social Justice Committee. All nominated students are welcomed into the team after successfully completing an induction process.

6. Sustainability Committee, Creative Arts Committee, Christ Centered Committee, Indigenous Committee, Technology Committee, Hospitality Committee, Events Committee and Library Committee

Year 6 students will nominate which committee they would like to join for the year, that they feel they could contribute to. Alongside their peers they will show initiative and give back to the school community in varying ways to support staff and students at St Joseph's.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed not less frequently than annually.

Policy Dates

Reviewed: **June 2020**

Ratified: **July 2020**

Next Review: **June 2021**