

Student Leadership



ST JOSEPH'S
SCHOOL

IN ALL THINGS KINDNESS

Student Leadership Policy & Guidelines

St Joseph's School
Murray Bridge

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Policy/Guidelines

Student Leadership Policy & Guidelines

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional country of the Ngarrindjeri people. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relations with the land. We acknowledge that they are of continuing importance to the Ngarrindjeri people living today.

Introduction

This policy aims to clarify the formal leadership roles available to St Joseph's School students. The document explains students' purpose, expectations, and the selection process for various leadership positions.

Mission & Vision

To provide a caring and supportive environment for all students to be thriving people, capable learners, and leaders for the world God desires. At our school, Together, we journey the river to future discoveries.

At St Joseph's Catholic School, we create a safe, educational environment for children in years Reception to Year 9, which matters to students and their families. As a school community, we aim to create an atmosphere that fosters our school values of Respect, Community, Inclusion, Compassion, Kindness and Cooperation. We promote the ideals of Christ through the example of Saint Mary MacKillop, which are reflected in our school motto: IN ALL THINGS KINDNESS.

Purpose

At St Joseph's School, part of fostering well-being is recognising the need for a strong student leadership culture. Leadership is about the skill of motivating, influencing, and directing people to work together to achieve the goals of a team, group or organisation. Students need to experience leadership opportunities during their schooling and learn the art of building relationships within teams, defining identities and achieving tasks effectively. It also provides a chance to learn to identify and display effective communication and interpersonal skills.

Leadership begins with identifying and understanding our school values. At St Joseph's School, all students have the opportunity to engage in leadership roles.

Our students are encouraged to experience and participate in a wide variety of extra-curricular and co-curricular activities that enhance their learning and personal development by:

- Expecting all our students to be authentic, listen to people, and serve others before themselves in the model of Mary MacKillop, the founder of our school.
- Leading by example and encouraging others positively as individuals.

- Contributing to the well-being of themselves and others, building self-esteem and new friendships.
- Developing skills in teamwork, perseverance, and commitment.
- Creating a sense of purpose and belonging.

We aim to encourage student voice, collaboration, and action by adopting a student leadership structure where students show initiative, take charge, and organise events where our students can work together for the common purpose of supporting peers or the wider community. It is vital to let our students have a voice and consult with them about what they think leadership is and discuss possible new initiatives that can be undertaken at our school.

At St Joseph's School, students have many opportunities to develop their leadership skills. This document is specific to the formal leadership involvement in the Justice and Ministry Team (JaM), Student Leadership Council, School Sports Captains, and Senior School Captains.

SPORTS CAPTAINS Years 3 and 7-9 Guidelines

Purpose

Sports Captains are an integral part of St Joseph's School's annual Sports Day. Captains from each team represent their house in meetings, lead team promotion, set examples and team values, speak on behalf of their house team and receive awards on behalf of their house team. Junior Captains are Year 3 students. They represent the Reception to Year 3s in their respective house teams. Senior Captains are students from Years 7-9 (Middle Years – MY). They represent the Year 4 to 9s in their respective house teams.

Expectations

Sports Captains will be expected to uphold the following responsibilities:

- Attend Captain Meetings scheduled at recess and/or lunchtime
- Lead team promotion (e.g. Team badge design)
- Organise (including promotion, set up, running and pack up) 1 or more recess or lunch activities for students at recess and/or lunchtime in the lead up to Sports Day.
- Lead Team Chant practices
- Do the things they said they would do and be the leader they said they would be in their speech, and uphold their personal commitment as leaders as they mentioned in their speeches.
- Demonstrate exemplary behaviour for the duration of their captaincy
- Represent the team at Sports Day Presentations

Selection process

Interested students from Year 3 and Years 7-9 need to write a speech to present to the students they wish to represent. At the completion of all speeches, team members vote. Speeches should be practised so they can be said with enthusiasm. Speeches should be no more than a minute or less in Yr 3 and no more than 3 minutes in Years 7-9.

Each Junior House Team elects one boy and one girl captain. Students get one vote to give to a boy and one vote to give to a girl. The boy and girl with the most votes are announced as captains.

Each Senior House Team elects two captains (non-gender specific). Students get two votes to give to two separate candidates. The two students with the most votes are announced as captains.

Captains receive a House Captain Badge to wear and keep.

A student's speech could include some of the following:

- How will they lead the team?
- What have they done in the past that will help them be a great captain?
- What will they bring to the captain role?
- What kind of example will they show?
- How will the team look up to them?
- How will they support their team?

Student Leadership Guidelines

Purpose

The primary objective of our student leadership program is to provide opportunities for students to actively contribute to the school community by taking on various roles of responsibility. We seek to empower students to develop leadership skills, build relationships, and create a positive and inclusive environment for all. Students from Years 2 to 8 can apply for a leadership role in a category that they feel passionate about. The categories are: Religious Leader, Cultural and Diversity Leader, Inclusion Leader, Environmental Leader, and Indigenous Leader. Elected student leaders will be in their role for a school year.

Student Leadership categories:

Religious Leader

A Religious Student Leader supports Catholic ethos at our school. They will promote the Gospel values and the tradition of St Joseph's. They will work together to support social justice, religious events such as liturgies and Masses and contribute to our flourishing faith community.

Cultural and Diversity Leader

At St Joseph's, we believe in fostering a diverse and inclusive school community that celebrates cultural differences and promotes understanding among our students. The Cultural and Diversity Student Leader is a crucial role designed to actively engage students in embracing and appreciating various cultures, while also promoting a sense of belonging and respect for all members of our school community.

Inclusion Leader

At our school, we believe in fostering a culture of inclusivity, where every student feels valued, respected, and supported. In line with these values, the role and responsibilities of an Inclusive Student Leader, highlights the importance of including others in all aspects of school life.

Environmental Leader

At St Joseph's, we believe in fostering a sense of responsibility towards caring for God's creation and actively preparing our students to be stewards of the environment. The role of an Environmental Student Leader is crucial in promoting sustainable practices and inspiring the entire school community to adopt environmentally friendly behaviours.

Indigenous Leader

We recognise and value the unique contributions, perspectives, and cultural heritage of our Indigenous students and their families. Indigenous student leadership aims to foster inclusivity, empower Indigenous students, celebrate their rich culture, and create an environment where all students feel welcome and supported.

At St Joseph's, we believe that every student has the potential to lead and positively contribute to the community. By providing meaningful leadership opportunities and fostering relationships, we aim to build a vibrant, inclusive, and supportive environment where all students can thrive and succeed.

Implementation:

1. Student Leadership Positions: Various leadership roles will be established across the above-mentioned areas. These roles will allow students to develop and showcase their leadership skills and passions.
2. Selection Process: The selection of student leaders will be fair and transparent. Criteria will be established for each role, including leadership potential, commitment, and positive role modelling.
3. Training and Development: Student leaders will receive training, workshops, and ongoing support to enhance their leadership skills and develop their capacity to lead others effectively.
4. Mentoring and Support: Each student leadership group will be assigned an appropriate staff mentor who will provide guidance, support, and constructive feedback throughout their leadership journey.
5. Review and Evaluation: The effectiveness of the student leadership program in building community and fostering relationships will be regularly reviewed and evaluated. Feedback from students, staff, parents, and the broader school community will be considered to continually improve the program.

Selection process

- Students from Years 2 to Year 8 will be introduced to the 5 key areas in class, and their teacher will facilitate this.
- Interested students will complete the Application Form and return it to the Wellbeing leaders of Primary and Middle Years. They will shortlist the applications, and those who are successful will proceed to the next stage, which will be an interview with a panel of staff.
- Following the interviews, students will be selected and placed into their desired leadership category.
- The students who are selected through the interview process are the student leaders for the year ahead.
- The application process for student leadership will take place at the beginning of Term 3 each year.
- Successful applicants are presented to the school community at the next Whole School Assembly/Community Prayer and acknowledged in the school newsletter.

The process of selection:

- Term 3 Week 9, applications to classroom teacher and then to Leaders of Wellbeing for shortlisting
- Term 3 Week 10, student informed of interview time and process.
- Term 4 Week 1, interviews take place and students selected.
- Term 4 Week 2, announcement of successful applicants.
- Term 4 Week 4, Leadership Workshop

Senior Student Captains Guidelines

Purpose

St Joseph's School is committed to preparing our students to become community and professional leaders in their chosen fields. The role of School Captain is a senior position in the Student Leadership structure, and they are role models for our whole school. The School Captains should display outstanding leadership qualities and be known and respected by all school community members for their excellent performance and contribution. The School Captains should have a strong interest and active involvement in all areas of the school. Two Captains will be chosen from the Middle Years cohort.

Expectations

The School Captain will be required to perform the following duties:

- Take an active representative role within the School and outside the community.
- Represent the School at a variety of events.
- Act as a mentor and role model to younger students within the School.
- Act as the link between the Student Voice Council and the Principal regarding student leadership.
- Assist with the planning and running of Student Leadership meetings and whole school assemblies.
- Promote and further develop School leadership, including regular presentations at school assemblies and articles for the school newsletter.
- Actively participate on the Student Voice Council by attending regular meetings and taking action when required.
- Prepare and present a School Captain's speech for the End of Year Assembly.
- Speak confidently and positively about the School and the Student leadership program.
- Meet regularly with the Principal and staff members.
- Attend Leadership Training.

Selection process

Criteria

The School Captain will be selected based on their ability to respond to the following criteria:

- Currently, in the Middle Years
- Highly developed interpersonal skills.
- A commitment to assisting in planning, attending and participating in school functions and activities.
- Ability to write speeches and deliver them confidently.
- Demonstrate knowledge of School life and the ability to encourage and engage others to participate.
- Highly developed organisational and time management skills, including an ability to meet deadlines.
- Demonstrate leadership skills.
- Willing to lead School Tours throughout the year.
- Have a strong understanding of our School Values
- Attend Leadership Training.

Process

- Student to complete the Application Form (Appendix B)
- Shortlist created from applicants by the panel
- Interview of shortlisted students by a panel
- Shortlisted applicants to prepare a speech to be read at a designated meeting to school staff
- Staff vote for final captains

The Panel shall consist of:

- Principal
- Deputy Principal
- Leader of Middle Years

APPLICATION – SCHOOL CAPTAIN

Name: _____

Year Level: _____

(1) Why have you applied for this role?

(2) What have you done over your time at St Joseph's School to demonstrate leadership and promote the School values?

(3) What is your vision as a School Captain for 2023?

Please complete the following sentence:

As a School Captain, I will.....

Name: _____

Year Level: _____ **PC:** _____

Student Signature: _____

I, _____ (parent/guardian name) understand that my daughter is applying for the position of St Joseph's School Captain and all this entails.

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

INTERVIEW – SCHOOL CAPTAIN

Name: _____

Year Level: _____

(1) What qualities / attributes make you suitable for this position?

(2) How will you act as a mentor and role model to younger leaders within the school?

(3) How can and will you promote and further develop School leadership?

(4) What positive example of leadership you have witnessed, and why was it exemplary?

(5) What do you want your legacy to be when you leave St Joseph's School?

Interview Completed by: _____

Revision Record

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We acknowledge the Ngarrindjeri people as the custodians of the Ngarrindjeri land, and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Ngarrindjeri people today.