



# STUDENT LEADERSHIP POLICY

## Scriptural Context

*“Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”*

*Matthew 7:7*

## Rationale

At St Patrick’s Primary School, we believe that students should be given an opportunity to have input into decisions, voice concerns and make suggestions to improve their school, as well as becoming more aware of the wider community. This will be provided through the role of School Captain, Mission Captain, Sports Captain and as a representative on the School Parliament.

## Aims

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all students are able to:

- work together as a Christian group
- work together to make fair decisions
- cooperate with other students in the school
- gain equal opportunity amongst children
- have representation in the decision making process
- show respect for each other and acknowledge their rights within St. Patrick’s Primary School
- develop a sense of belonging, responsibility and partnership

## Guidelines

At St Patrick’s Primary School, the Student Leadership Policy will be implemented and aligned with our Religious Education, Pastoral Care and Learning Support policies. The student leadership structure at St Patrick’s mainly involves Year Six students, who are able to hold positions of School Captain, Mission Captain, Sports Captain or School Parliamentary Ministers and parliamentary officers.

Four School Captains (two boys and two girls), two Mission Captains (one boy and one girl) and six Sports Captains (three boys and three girls) are elected each year to represent the student body in a leadership position. The three groups of captains have specific roles and responsibilities. Part of their role is to uphold the good name of St Patrick’s Primary School and to be role models to other students.

The School Parliament involves all Year 6 students and gives them an opportunity for leadership development. The Parliament is led by the school captains and other students are responsible for a variety of portfolios. Students are supported in their role by staff members.

All Year 5 students will participate in a leadership program throughout the year. A leadership program will continue for those elected to one of the captains roles in Year 6. The gender composition of the above positions may change depending on the number of eligible students in any particular cohort. A Student Leader Applicant Package will be sent home to parents and students. This will contain information regarding the eligibility criteria, speech, voting and selection process. The attached timeline will be shared with all Year 5 students prior to the election

period each year. Students will be given two weeks to complete and submit the leadership application for review by Stage 3 teaching team and the Leadership Team. Year 5 teachers will organise for the confidential Google voting form to be sent out to staff and students. Leadership Team members will be assigned as collaborators. The final voting tally will be kept confidential.

## **Guideline Indicators**

### **The roles and duties of School, Mission and Sports Captains**

To represent students on the School Parliament, be proactive in playground issues, manage assemblies and represent the school at public events, e.g. Anzac Day and Remembrance Day, school tours, Kinder Orientation days and other whole school activities, e.g. NAIDOC Day, Children's Day, Year 6 fundraising events, etc.

### **School Captains Responsibilities**

- Commit to and live out the values taught to us by Jesus
- Attend regular meetings with the Principal, Assistant Principal Learning & Teaching and Assistant Principal Mission.
- Represent the school at community functions.
- Be a role model for other students.
- Deliver welcome and thank you speeches to dignitaries, visitors and guests.
- Represent the students at discussions with the staff or parent groups.

### **Mission Captains Responsibilities**

- Commit to and live out the values taught to us by Jesus
- Support the fundraising for Caritas, Catholic Mission and St. Vincent de Paul Society
- Be an active member of the Mini Vinnies Team
- Attend regular meetings with the Principal and Assistant Principal Mission
- Be a good friend to all students, especially those in need of a friend.

### **Sports Captains Responsibilities**

- Commit to and live out the values taught to us by Jesus
- Assume a leadership role in sports meetings.
- Lead their sports house at school carnivals.
- Assist teachers with sport equipment.
- Be a role model for other students and be respectful of their position.

### **Eligibility/Election Procedures**

- Each child in Year Five is given the opportunity to apply for one of the three Captain's roles in Semester Two.
- Students must be enrolled in the school at the beginning of Year 4 to be eligible for a student leadership position.
- Students will be given an application form to complete based on the selection criteria. Students will need to rate themselves against each criteria area, which is on a 5 point scale. Students will then write a short comment for each. Application forms will then be assessed and students informed if they qualify to present a speech to the school community. The Homegroup teacher will discuss unsuccessful applications with the child's parent/caregiver.
- Eligible students will be given two weeks to prepare a speech (3 minutes maximum) that they will give to the school community.
- All students will listen to the speeches of eligible Year 5 students.
- Students from Years 3 to 6 will be given the opportunity to vote for School, Mission and Sports Captains. Voting will be completed on a confidential Google form. Each child's vote

will count as one point. Staff will be given the opportunity to vote for School, Mission and Sports Captains. Voting will be completed on a confidential Google form. Each staff member's vote will count as five points.

- Voting will take place twice over two consecutive days, with staff and students voting for School Captains on the first occasion. Once the new School Captains have been decided, staff and students will vote once more for Mission and then Sports Captains.
- Once votes from both processes have been completed and new captains have been determined, the school community will be informed.

#### **Initiation:**

- The Principal announces the Captains at the morning assembly following the completion of the voting process.
- The new Captains are initiated at the Beginning Year Mass, where they are presented with their badges by the Principal. The Captains' parents are invited to attend the Mass to be part of the ceremony.

#### **Contractual Agreement:**

In the event of misrepresentation or inappropriate behaviour by a Captain, the Principal has the right to ask the student to step down from their role for a minimum period of one month and inform their parents of this decision.

#### **School Parliament**

See attached Parliamentary procedures Appendix B

#### **Reflective Materials**

- St Patrick's Behaviour Management Policy 2018
- Parent Information Handbook

**This policy was last ratified and reviewed by St Patrick's School  
Advisory Council in...**

**November 2008  
February 2012  
December 2016  
September 2021**