Student Leadership Policy

Rationale:

The philosophy of providing quality education through a partnership between teachers, children and parents is a focus of St Agnes' Catholic Primary School. Opportunities for student leadership provides a forum for students to work collaboratively with the staff in some areas of decision making.

Aims:

1. To provide a forum whereby students can participate in some decision-making processes of the school.
2. To develop student responsibility for the implementation of school activities.
3. To enhance students' sense of belonging to a P-6 group within the school.

Guidelines:

1. Student leadership involves all our year 6 students. Formalised positions will be as follows;
   - 2 school captains,
   - 2 school vice captains,
   - 6 house captains – boy and girl (where possible - Gold, Red and Blue Captain).
   - Other year 6 students will have the opportunity to develop their leadership skills and will be involved in leading various projects. These projects will be determined by the year six students, their teacher(s) and the school principal.
2. The student leadership team will consist of our P-6 Student representative council. [SRC]. This includes 2 school captains, 2 school vice captains and a representative from each class group.
3. Students P-6 will be provided with opportunities during their schooling to develop leadership skills.
4. The Captains/Vice captains and house captains will be recognised in their leadership positions by wearing a badge stating their position.
5. All Year 6 students will be recognized as leaders and will receive a leadership badge.
6. All badges will be presented to the year 6’s at the beginning of the school year mass.

(If in the event that the year 6 enrolment was particularly small or there was a significant imbalance of boy/girl ratio, it may be necessary for the principal in consultation with the staff and education board to modify the above guidelines.)

THE ELECTION PROCESS

- Year 5 students will participate in a leadership program during October and November in preparation for the leadership roles they may take on the following year.
- Voting will occur in late November.
- The students in Year 4 and 5 will work in collaboration with the staff to vote for the school captains, vice captains and house captains for the following year.
- All Year 5 students have the opportunity to nominate themselves for any formalized leadership position. The student will need to nominate themselves if he/she wish to be considered for the position.
Nominations involve completing an application form and presenting a short speech. Students not elected for a formalized leadership role will be given opportunity to demonstrate their leadership skills through leadership roles e.g. Library, Health, Environment, Arts etc. These leaders will be required to promote their area of leadership, submit articles for the newsletter and speak at assemblies.

**Roles & Responsibilities of school captains, vice captains and house captains may include**

- Representing the school at all official occasions including the Beginning School Year Mass at St. Patrick’s Cathedral

**Roles & Responsibilities for all year 6 leaders may include**

- Welcoming visitors into the school for any special meetings, etc.
- Conducting school tours for prospective parents during enrolment month and at other times as requested by the Principal.
- Representing the student body at events including special parish liturgies.
- Being involved in developing policies which affect students, eg: uniform, playground.
- Reporting feedback to students at assemblies.
- Writing reports for the school newsletter.
- Introducing and thanking guests to the school.
- Setting the tone for other students in the school.
- Assisting and/or organising functions within the school.
- Manage pupils’ sport and recreation needs and any functions requiring the House System or competition.
  1. Responsible distribution and collection of sports equipment.
  2. Assisting in the organisation of House Sports together with the House Teacher/s.

**Selection Criteria:**

1. Ability to clearly articulate the qualities required of a school leader.
2. Ability to demonstrate personal leadership qualities.
3. Ability to demonstrate a pride in the school.
4. Ability to demonstrate respect for students, teachers and adults.
5. Ability to demonstrate being a good role model to other students.
6. An understanding of being a representative of other students.
7. Ability to demonstrate initiative and generate ideas.

**3. Student Council:**

1. Two students are chosen from each class, Years Prep to 6.
2. All students in a class are free to nominate.
3. Representatives serve one semester.
4. Representatives in any given year cannot be considered again until all children in that year level have had an opportunity to nominate.
5. Student council activities will be directed by the staff member leading SRC meetings.
6. A record of students who have been SRC will be kept on SAS.
Structure:
1. The four school leaders- school captains and vice captains will form the executive of the Student Council
2. Proper meeting protocol will be observed.
3. The Student representative council will meet with a designated Staff Coordinator once per fortnight.
4. Badges will be provided for both leaders and members of the Student Council.

Roles and Responsibilities:
1. Representing the student body
2. Being involved in developing policies which affect students, eg: uniform, playground
3. Reporting feedback to students at assemblies
4. Responding to the need of children, teachers and parents.
5. Assisting in making the school a safe and friendly place for all children.
6. Preparing reports of meetings/newsletter.
7. Providing a forum for ideas\needs and act on these ideas\needs.
8. Organising fund-raising activities which may have a social justice focus and special days.

Evaluation
This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle.
Roles and responsibilities of student leadership will be reviewed annually.
Mention of children’s roles and responsibilities will be made in mid-year and end of the year reports and or portfolios.

Policy formulated
October 2006

Ratified by the Staff and Education Board.

Policy Reviewed 2013