



BRIDGETOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

STUDENT LEADERSHIP POLICY

Rationale

Bridgetown Primary School aims to develop student leadership skills and experience within our school and local community for senior students. Having effective student leaders supports the development of responsible behaviours, a positive school tone and encourages students to model the school values. Positive student leadership opportunities and experiences will facilitate the transition to secondary school and the world beyond.

Aim

Students in the final years at primary school will be given the opportunity to demonstrate and develop responsibility. There are many who, during their years at school, have shown qualities which indicate they can contribute positively to the school. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students are supported and encouraged to:

- Develop a range of leadership skills
- Aim high in all that they do
- Be positive role-models for other students
- Demonstrate respect for everyone and the environment
- Contribute 'student voice' in relation to some areas of decision making
- Assist staff by undertaking tasks that support the day-to-day running of the school

Student Leaders

Student Councillors or Faction Captains will be identified through a selection process. In their roles as student leaders they will contribute to the school and develop their personal character and leadership skills. Students should be able to demonstrate the following leadership qualities and skills:

- Be a positive role model by exhibiting school values and wearing of school uniform
- Respect school rules and procedures
- Show initiative and contribute to the promotion of students' needs
- Have strong communication skills with both peers and adults
- Possess high organisational skills
- Be actively involved in sporting events (Faction Captains)
- Ability to manage classroom work load

Student Councillor Duties may include the following:

- Welcome new students, parents and visitors to the school
- Mentoring and supporting fellow students
- Host school assemblies, give reports
- Promote school rules and uniform by example
- Coordinate and organise some school activities
- Represent the school at official community occasions
- Display and accept responsibility - use initiative
- Meet regularly with their coordinator to discuss roles, duties and learn leadership strategies
- Fundraising for charity

N.B. Parents are requested to consider that their support of their child is crucial for them to be successful in the role. Parents are expected to assist their child in fulfilling their duties.

Faction Captain Duties may include the following:

- Promote school rules and uniform by example
- Mentoring and supporting fellow students
- Work under the direction of the sports teacher to control/monitor sports shed
- Assist and prepare some school activities e.g. morning fitness
- Represent the school at interschool sporting events
- Display and accept responsibility - use initiative
- Meet regularly with their coordinator to discuss roles, duties and learn leadership strategies
- Assist staff and students to prepare for sports carnivals
- Provide classes with sports equipment and regularly update Faction results at Assemblies

N.B. Parents are requested to consider that their support of their child is crucial for them to be successful in the role. Parents are expected to assist their child in fulfilling their duties.

Selection Process

Students who are in Year 5 all have the opportunity of nominating for the position of Student Councillor and/or Faction Captain for the following year. Throughout the school year, Year 5 students will be made aware of the qualities required for nomination as a Student Leader including qualities of leadership, appropriate behaviour and demonstration of school values.

Students hold their leadership positions for all of Year 6 unless they are removed by Administration. The Administration may remove student leaders at their discretion, e.g. failure of the student to display the appropriate qualities. Leaders may be appointed during the Year 6 school year should a vacancy arise. Should the need arise this process will be at the discretion of the Principal.

Head Students: Two Head Students will be elected from the Student Councillors at the commencement of Year 6 by their Year 6 peers and staff. All Student Councillors are required to present a speech outlining their qualities for the position. Immediately following the delivery of the speeches, students and staff will be given a ballot paper on which to cast their vote for the two Head Student positions.

Student Councillors: In Term 4 each year, up to eight Year 5 students will be selected as Councillors.

Faction Captains: In Term 4 each year, up to eight Year 5 students will be selected as Faction Captains.

Selection Panel

A selection panel, consisting of Admin, physical education teacher and staff from Years Five and Six will consider all nominations. If the number of suitable nominations exceeds the number of positions available, then the selection panel will create a short list of students to interview. Those students selected at the end of this process will become members of our Student Leadership Team, either as Student Councillors or Faction Captains.

The Selection Panel will take a number of factors into consideration when selecting students for the available leadership positions. These factors will include, but are not limited to:

- information written on the nomination form
- information provided by the current year teacher
- adherence to the School Dress Code
- standard of behaviour
- general attitude displayed at school
- responses given to the interview questions - if interviews are conducted

Conclusion

The senior students are our student role models. We acknowledge the values and talents which they bring to our school community. They work hard and are successful in making our school a welcoming, friendly and inclusive community in which all students feel safe and are happy to learn and play. They are the decision makers of the future and we hope that through our leadership program they will develop skills and attitudes to assist them to become good citizens prepared to make a difference.