



Issued 2010  
Revised 2013  
Review 2017

# **SACRED HEART PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION POLICY**

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## **RATIONALE**

At Sacred Heart Primary School, every Year 6 student is provided with opportunities and support to develop their leadership potential. We believe all students have the right to hold a leadership position and as a result, a model of leadership has been developed which is inclusive. The following is an outline of each of these opportunities and how we believe they support and encourage important life skills.

## **OUR STUDENT LEADERSHIP MODEL**

Sacred Heart's shared model of leadership is based on serving others and developing our own leadership qualities. All Year 6 students take on the important role of leadership within the school community with the support and encouragement of their classroom teachers, parents and school staff. All students will be involved in one of the following Leadership Ministries:

- Pastoral
- Communications
- Events/IT
- Sustainability

Selected students are given additional responsibility as Councillors and House Captains.

Our rationale for this type of leadership includes:

1. Every student in Year 6 has the shared responsibility to lead the student population;
2. Every student in Year 6 has the right to develop his or her own leadership qualities;
3. Leadership is based on service to others.

## **Year 6 Options**

Options are run in Term 3.

**Goal:** The options programme should provide opportunities for students to:

- Work in small groups pursuing an interest
- Engage students in an area of interest
- Provide learning opportunities for students in curriculum areas that are not usually a focus
- Utilise expertise of school and wider community members

## **Student Elections: House Captains**

In Term 4 each year our Year 5 students are engaged in student leadership activities as follows:

### **Week 5 Preparation**

All students from Year Five prepare for leadership through the following:

- Visit from current Year Sixes to discuss roles and responsibilities of Year 6
- Visit from the Year Six Teachers to discuss ministries
- Students create a leadership poster outlining virtues and qualities
- Design logo for Leavers Polo

### **Week 6 Candidacy**

Students nominate for candidacy for student council, house captains or both. Prepare speeches which outline the following:

- What it means to be a good leader
- Why leadership is important to them
- Virtues and Qualities that make them a good leader
- Other personal information which is relevant to leadership
- Students applying to be House Captain can include how they can serve their house at house events
- Speeches are to be no more than three minutes

Other tasks to be completed

- Leadership posters are displayed outside the library
- Ballot Papers are prepared

### **Week 7 Speeches and Election**

#### ***Student Council***

Year 4 and 5 students with teachers listen to speeches at a single venue.

At the conclusion of the speeches, students vote in the venue using a preferential voting system in order to elect four female and four male councillors\*

\*The school has the right to change gender ratio of councillors based on the cohort.

#### ***House Captains***

Year 4 and 5 students with teachers listen to speeches. Speeches occur in the Year 4 and 5 classrooms with one house in each classroom. Candidates speak to their house only. At the

conclusion of the speeches, students vote in the venue using a preferential voting system in order to elect one female and one male house captain\*

***Teacher Voting***

Ballots to be placed in the staff room after speeches are completed. Teachers to vote using the preferential voting system.

**Week 8 Elections (secret Ballot)**

Returning Officer – Principal or Assistant Principals

Ballot papers will be delivered to each House member in Yrs 4 and 5 to vote in the classroom. Voting slips returned to principal or assistant principals by the next break time in the sealed envelope provided.

Voting for staff will occur during Week 8.

**Week 9/10** Leaders announced at the Thanksgiving Mass.