

APPLICABLE TO	Students, Teachers and Families at Rosary Park Catholic School, Branxton
DOCUMENT OWNER	Rosary Park Catholic Primary School Executive
APPROVAL DATE	March 2020
APPROVED BY	Staff and Parents
LAST REVIEW DATE/S	N/A
NEXT REVIEW DATE	2024
RELATED DOCUMENTS	<p>Student Leadership and Participation Procedure</p> <p>Student Leadership Policy</p> <p>Student Leadership Procedure</p> <p>Student Welfare Policy</p> <p>Student Welfare Procedure</p> <p>CSO Wellbeing and Pastoral Care Policy</p>

Purpose

The purpose of this policy and related documents is to establish clear procedures for the development of student leadership capacity and active student participation within the school. This endeavour seeks to:

- Allow students to proactively engage with and respond to student issues and opportunities within the school.
- Provide opportunities for students to play a significant and effective role in the decision-making processes of our school.
- Ensure that student leaders are positive role models for other students.
- Create a whole school community where every member feels their contribution is valuable.
- Provide a formal and recognised process to effectively and fairly gather and express students' opinions, suggestions and recommendations regarding school direction and day-to-day decision making.

Policy Statement

At Rosary Park Catholic School, student participation and leadership are integral to a culture of students being valued, respected and involved, which leads to a positive sense of self and wellbeing. Students at Rosary Park are encouraged to develop their leadership skills in order to support fellow students and to benefit the wider community. Opportunities to develop these qualities are provided through a range of learning experiences, both in their everyday school life and in targeted leadership programs. There are many student roles that offer support and leadership for students in the school community. Every student is encouraged to build their own sense of themselves as a leader. A wide range of formal leadership opportunities are available at Rosary Park Catholic School and these are outlined in the Student Leadership and Participation Procedure. These positions are in place for the benefit of the entire student body and the larger school community.

Elections are conducted entirely by staff and voted for by students in Year 2 to Year 5. (No discussion or justification will be entered into with parents or other external parties. It is essential that the exact procedures for electing students to leadership roles is made clear to parents of upcoming leaders as well as the students

themselves to ensure full clarity in the process (please refer Student Leadership Policy and Procedure 2019; as well as the supporting procedure for this policy).

This policy and the supporting procedure document will look at both Student leadership and Student Participation (definition of each in the section below).

Definitions

Student Leadership – the opportunity to formally contribute to actions, discussions and decisions that relate to student’s engagement, participation and contribution to the school community. To formally share these with school executive members for consideration.

Student Participation – the opportunity to be involved in a number of clubs and projects during the school year that align with own interest or wish to contribute to positive action as a community.

Scope

The coverage of this policy applies to all community members of Rosary Park Catholic School, Branxton.

Guiding Principles

- Rosary Park Catholic School Community is committed to encouraging student leadership which ensures we are developing our community leaders of the future.
- Students are encouraged to take on leadership roles in an endeavour to increase their own leadership skills and to act as effective role models for the student body.
- Student leadership provides an opportunity for students to actively participate in the decision-making processes at Rosary Park Catholic School. This enhances the partnership between students, staff and parents.
- Student Leadership empowers the student body in the involvement and ownership of their school community and environment by encouraging students to become ‘stewards’ of our world.
- School student leadership is based on a desire to participate in roles that are both equally inclusive and valuable to the school community.
- It has equitable hierarchical structure and affords a diversity of quality leadership roles for all students involved.

Responsibilities

The Principal or delegated executive members will be responsible for:

Student Leadership:

- Supporting all teachers, specifically Stage 3 teachers in Leadership development programs.
- Ensuring consistent, fair and just procedures are enacted for the election of student leadership roles in Term 4 of the previous year.
- Leading the shortlisting of nominees for student leadership to ensure suitability of all applicants wishing to be considered for any leadership roles.
- Communicating directly with parents should a nomination not be considered suitable by staff (strict guidelines on suitability and nominations is set out in the procedure document).
- Planning for and communicating to parents the timing of assemblies / Masses that will announce Student Leadership roles as they are confirmed.

- Ensuring equitable and if necessary rostered access to various parts of the school playground during lunch.
- Ensuring adequate structures are in place (including staff supervision) for a variety of student clubs and groups outside of the classroom.

Classroom Teachers and Learning Support Team will be responsible for:

- Promotion and recognition of student leadership initiatives throughout the school.
- Unpacking age-appropriate understanding of the different student leadership roles and the place of the student leadership team in the school.
- Stage 3 Teachers: delivering Leadership Development workshops, discussions and projects in the lead up to student nomination and election process.
- Ensuring consistent, fair and just election practices in the classroom including an awareness of what to look for and elect in a leader beyond popularity or sibling connection.
- Monitoring the potential and responding to any gender bias or pressure to vote for one candidate over the other.
- Guiding and encouraging student participation in various groups and projects throughout the school especially if it pertains to their wellbeing and sense of purpose in the school.
- Consulting with teachers supervising the student groups and projects to suggest the most suited group for a particular student in need of such involvement.
- Regularly rostering student groups and projects for which they undertake a supervisory role and communicating this with the student body.

Parents will be responsible for:

- Supporting students in their understanding of and aspirations for student leadership including the completion of the leadership portfolio and supporting their child upon the announcement of results.
- Remaining aware of timelines and understanding of processes involved in the election of student leaders (communicated through student leadership information notes sent home Via Compass in Term 4 (Year 5).
- Encouraging students to bring student related concerns to the student leadership team for discussions and possible solutions.
- Encouraging students to participate in one of the student leadership teams that might interest and engage them within the school.

Students are responsible for:

- Participating in Student leadership discussions and workshop opportunities as they arise. Even if students are unlikely to nominate, it is important as senior leaders they have an understanding of leadership for all students.
- Considering nominating for chosen leadership roles for a team and committing to full participation in this team in Year 6.
- Participating fully in the election process and if a candidate, speaking to the whole school regarding their commitment to and hopes for the leadership role to which they aspire.
- Maintaining exemplary behaviour with a clear understanding of steps undertaken as a result of any ongoing negative behaviours.
- Conducting themselves respectfully and responsibly in any leadership role, most specifically during student leadership team meetings.
- Fulfilling the ongoing responsibilities of their elected role as prescribed in the procedure document.
- Taking opportunities to actively participate in the different teams and projects related to their chosen team offered throughout the school year.

Budget

An allocation to cover the costs associated with the implementation of this policy is made annually by the school. Costs are associated with the leadership day and the purchase of badges.