

Student Leadership Policy

Rationale

At Grays Point Public School effective School Captains and Vice Captains support the development of a positive school culture through adhering to the school values of being a safe, respectful learner. School Captain, Vice Captain and Prefect positions provide an opportunity for students to be actively represented in school decision-making processes.

Aim of the Policy

- Provide clear guidelines regarding the democratic selection process of electing the School Captains, Vice Captains and Prefects.
- Provide clarification of student leadership responsibilities.
- Develop School Leaders' capacities in a supportive school environment.
- Encourage School Leaders to model responsible behaviours and support the development of a positive school climate.

Implementation

- A democratic process will be followed throughout the elections, with Principal and staff exercising discretion and equity.
- Adherence to our school values throughout the students' schooling will be considered throughout the process.
- All positions have a probationary period of one term. If students have not upheld the school values during this period and/or their term of office, their position may be suspended or terminated.
- Any queries or concerns about any student leadership process must be taken up with the Principal.
- Student leaders are expected to be a role model for other students and must demonstrate a range of behaviours as per the role description provided.

The Selection Process for School Captains, Vice Captains and Prefects

- At the commencement of Term 4, Year 5 students who wish to put themselves forward for nomination are encouraged to do so.
- The Year 5 cohort are asked to consider the qualities of a good leader and then vote for eight boys and eight girls from those who nominated.
- The 16 students are then given a template to complete outlining their student involvement and the reasons why they wish to be a school leader and then signed by a parent.
- The final sixteen are then required to prepare a speech of 1 minute in duration. Speeches must include why the candidate would be a good leader in the future. Props, costumes or placards are NOT to be used. Students must also be present on the day of speeches - video or online will not be accepted. Any candidate absent and not able to present speeches who wishes to be considered as a valid candidate must present a medical certificate to explain absence. Extended holiday leave will not be considered a valid reason.
- At the conclusion of the speeches students and all staff are provided with a voting slip with the names and photos of the candidates. Precise numbers of slips are printed to ensure one vote per eligible voter (staff and student votes are worth the same).
- Staff and students number their preferred candidates in order from one to eight and return their slips to the Stage Three teachers.

- At the end of voting Year Five teachers will count the votes using the preferential voting system (reflecting our own federal election system) where a voter's preferences may also be allocated to candidates. A review committee, comprising Stage 3 teachers and the school Principal will review all ballots.
- All candidates will be assembled and told whether they have been successful or not in gaining a leadership position. Successful candidates will not be told which position they have attained. All successful students will be required to write an acceptance speech which will be presented only by the new School Captains at the final assembly of the school year where all official positions will be revealed.

The Election Timeline

- **Week 3** - Election information discussed with Year 5 students. Students will receive information about the Election Timeline, content of speeches and the voting process.
- **Week 4** - Nominations by Year 5 students. Students indicate their intention to nominate for an elected position in the 2025 Leadership Team. This is a personal decision and children do not have to nominate.
- **Week 5** - Voting by Year 5 students to elect 8 boys and 8 girls who will then need to prepare speeches and present these to a **Special Year 1-5 Assembly** in Week 7. Announcement of the 16 students will be made as soon as possible after the nomination process is completed.
- **Week 7** - Speeches will be presented and voting will follow. All students in Years 1-5 will number 1-8 in order of preference for both boys and girls. Students' voting preferences continue to be allocated until the top 4 boys and girls are elected. The 8 children (4 boys and 4 girls) who will make up the 2025 Leadership Team are announced in a Year 5 Assembly in Week 7, but they will not be told which role they have attained.
- **Week 8** - Announcement of Leadership Team positions at Presentation.

Selection Criteria

Prospective School Captains, Vice Captains and Prefects will adhere to the Core Values of Grays Point Public School:

- be respectful
- be kind
- be considerate
- be fair

Candidates must:

- Be in Year 5.
- Have a high involvement in the life of the school.
- Have demonstrated confidence in public speaking.
- Have an excellent attendance record.
- Aspire and strive to achieve the highest standards of learning.
- Show demonstrated leadership qualities including being mature, assertive, discrete, loyal and articulate.

Responsibilities may include:

- Representing the student body at official school functions.
- Assisting with the induction of new students.
- Assisting at weekly assemblies.
- Assisting on Kindergarten Orientation Days.
- Leading the Anzac Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies.
- Leading school special events.
- Leading the Presentation Day Assemblies.
- Assist the Principal and school staff when required.
- Welcome and thank visitors to the school.

In NSW public schools all students are expected to:

- Respect other students, their teachers and school staff and community members.
- Follow school and class rules and follow the directions of their teachers.
- Strive for the highest standards in learning.
- Respect all members of the school community and show courtesy to all students, teachers and community members.
- Resolve conflict respectfully, calmly and fairly.
- Comply with the school's uniform policy or dress code.
- Attend school every day (unless legally excused).
- Respect all property.
- Not be violent or bring weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco into our schools.
- Not bully, harass, intimidate or discriminate against anyone in our schools.

Behaviour Code for Students

At Grays Point Public School prospective Captains and Vice Captains are required to meet the highest standards of respectful, safe and engaged learners.

Respect

- Treat one another with dignity.
- Speak and behave courteously.
- Cooperate with others.
- Develop positive and respectful relationships and think about the effect on relationships before acting.
- Value the interests, ability and culture of others.
- Dress appropriately by complying with the school uniform or dress code.
- Take care with property.

Safety

- Model and follow departmental, school and/or class codes of behaviour and conduct.
- Negotiate and resolve conflict with empathy.
- Take personal responsibility for behaviour and actions.
- Care for self and others.
- Avoid dangerous behaviour and encourage others to avoid dangerous behaviour.



Learner

- Attend school every day (unless legally excused).
- Arrive at school and class on time.
- Be prepared for every lesson.
- Actively participate in learning.
- Aspire and strive to achieve the highest standards of learning.
- Be a leader of learning.