

Yarrawarra Public School Leadership Policy

November 2024

Purpose

School life provides many opportunities for young people to develop leadership and representation skills, including as leaders in school governance.

Formal student leadership and student representation programs provide important benefits for individual students and schools. Student leaders have the potential to influence the school environment and the behaviour of their fellow students by becoming advocates for positive change in the school community.

At Yarrawarra Public School students have a variety of ways to become leaders within the school setting. The school encourages these leadership roles to be spread amongst the student body.

Scope

This policy provides an outline of the leadership opportunities presented to students at Yarrawarra. The majority of these are offered to the senior students in the school, Year 6, but younger students have leadership opportunities through S.R.C. representation and in extracurricular programs.

Our School's Approach

The school's policy is for all students to be given the opportunity to develop leadership skills that are appropriate to their developmental stage. Students will be encouraged and actively supported to learn about leadership and be trained in potential leadership roles. Experienced leaders in the school will assist in this training and the students in training will receive feedback on how they are progressing.

The L.E.A.D Program

In Year 5, students will be informed about the **Leadership Education and Development Program (L.E.A.D)** and communication will be sent out to parents. This will set out a timeline for the program and what is required from students who wish to take part.

Student behaviour will be monitored as part of the program. If students are involved in more than two major negative incidents in the year leading up to their potential leadership role they may be ineligible. School executive will make the ultimate decision and parents will be notified.

Eligible students will be allocated a time during Terms 3 & 4 when a Year 6 student will mentor them on the leadership role they are currently fulfilling. Their mentor will show them aspects of the leadership role and prepare them for what may happen should they find themselves in this role the following year.

Selection of Positions

Prefects

The leadership positions will be decided in order. Prefect elections will be held first. Students not elected will be able to run for House Captains. Once they are selected the Tech Team & Eco Warriors are chosen.

Ten boys and ten girls will be able to run for prefect. If more than this amount are eligible to run, a Prefect pre-selection will occur. All Year 5, the Year 6 Leadership Team and staff will be allowed to vote for students to be pre-selected and the ten students with the most votes can run.

The boys and girls that are running for prefect will create an A4 poster outlining why people should vote for them to be displayed in the playground. They will also write a short speech of between 1 & 2 minutes to be delivered in front of the school community. This speech will be about their personal qualities and why they are suitable for the role of prefect.

After the speeches staff and students will vote for 4 boys and 4 girls. The student with the most votes, male & female, will become school captain. The boy and girl with the second most votes becomes vice-captain and the remaining prefect positions are for the third and fourth vote getters.

House Captains

Once the prefects have been selected, house meetings will be held. At these meetings any student who has completed their passport and has not been elected as a prefect can run for House Captain- boy and girl. Each candidate will deliver a short speech on why they should be House Captain before the entire house votes. If there are no appropriate candidates of a particular gender, then two house captains can be chosen from the other gender.

Tech Team and Eco Warriors

Once the House Captains have been selected the remaining students then decide if they wish to be a member of the Tech Team or Eco Warriors. They submit a written application to the teacher in charge of each area, outlining why they would be a good candidate. The teacher in charge then selects the best four candidates from those who applied. They may select more if they feel this is appropriate.

Cultural Captain

Year 6 First Nations students who are committed to sharing their culture with their peers and our school can be considered for the Cultural Captain role. The school executive determines this representative based on their contributions to cultural programs within the school. Being a leader in another area does not exclude a First Nations student from being the Cultural Captain, but in the event that leadership opportunities can be shared, the school will aim to provide opportunities across the cohort of Year 6 students. In the event that the school does not have a Year 6 First Nations student, this role will remain unfilled.

Other Leadership Opportunities For Senior Students

Students can also be elected as class SRC representatives. Two students from each class are selected each semester and these students cannot already be in leadership positions in the school.

Additionally all Year 6 students will be allocated a Kinder student to mentor as part of the school's Buddy program. They will guide these younger students through their first year at school.

All Year 6 students will be part of the fundraising team that raises money for the school. They will run activities such as school discos, competitions and coordinate the Year 6 Funday.

Student Representative Council

All students K-6 have the opportunity to run for the school's Student Representative Council (S.R.C.). Students nominate themselves or are nominated by their peer group. Members of the class then vote on who they would like to be their representative. Kindergarten select two representatives in their second semester of school only. Years 1-6 classes choose two representatives per semester. Students cannot be an SRC rep for 2 consecutive semesters in one year, i.e. if they were an SRC rep in Semester 1, they cannot run in Semester 2. SRC students represent their class at meetings, reporting back to class when required. They are expected to adhere to our school values and behave responsibly as leaders in our school.

Ongoing Commitment to School Values

Students elected to leadership positions in the school will continue to be monitored with respect to their behaviour and the standards they are upholding with respect to their role. If they are seen to not be displaying the appropriate values then they may be temporarily removed from their position. Parents will be contacted and informed if this occurs. If the behaviour of students in leadership positions continues to be an issue, they may be permanently removed from the role.