Charlestown Public School

STUDENT LEADERSHIP POLICY

Endorsed by Staff: 12 September 2013
Next Review: September 2015

RATIONALE
Student leadership provides an opportunity for students to actively participate in the decision-making processes at our school. Students are encouraged to take on leadership roles in an endeavour to increase their own leadership skills, act as effective role models for the student body and offer responsible service to their school and peers.

AIMS
- To provide opportunities for students to play a significant and effective role in the decision-making processes of our school.
- To provide an opportunity for students to become skilled in all aspects of leadership.
- To ensure that student leaders are positive role models for other students.
- To provide a democratic forum where all students are represented by a peer leader.
- To demonstrate and uphold the school’s values.

The Student Leadership Team executive will consist of:
- two school captains (one girl and one boy) and two prefects (either gender) from Year 5 for Year 6, and
- two house captains from Year 5 for Year 6.

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION
Students will be eligible for nomination if:
1. They care for themselves and others including school property as well as completing all school work to the best of their ability.
2. They act and speak honestly as well as politely towards their peers, school staff and community members.
3. They engage in safe, friendly play and co-operate by working with other students.
4. They show consideration of others feelings and differences.
5. They wear their school uniform with pride and participate in all relevant school activities to the best of their ability.
6. They obey school rules.
7. A student can only hold one student leadership executive position of office in a given calendar year, i.e., cannot be a prefect and house captain, but may be a library prefect in addition.

CAPTAINS AND PREFECTS ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
The captains and prefects could be called upon at any time to assist with a variety of roles and responsibilities. These include:
- regular meetings with the Principal or Assistant Principal;
- representing the school at outside functions;
- being a role model for other students and being respectful of their position;
- being pro-active in playground issues;
- delivering welcome and thank you speeches to special visitors and guests;
• greeting and welcoming special visitors at the school gates, introducing themselves and showing them to the office;
• running K-6 assemblies and assisting in the presentation of awards at assemblies;
• setting up for assemblies;
• assisting with Kindergarten Orientation;
• assisting with Kindergarten’s first day;
• assisting in end of year Presentation Day assembly;
• assisting in any other additional activities as required;
• running special assemblies, e.g. ANZAC Day etc.

SPEECHES FOR STUDENT LEADERSHIP EXECUTIVE
Once a student in Yr 5 is successful with their nomination, they are required to make a 2-3 minute speech. The students selected will present their speech to their class. The teacher, a member of the executive and the class will vote to identify the top candidates. The top candidate will then present their speech to the K-6 students and school staff. The speech must include:
• why they want to be a part of the student executive
• the personal qualities expected of a student executive and how they have demonstrated these qualities
• the responsibilities expected of a member of the student executive
• leadership roles and representative roles (zone sports, band, public speaking etc) undertaken
• students may add additional material, including outside interests and background information about themselves
• speeches should be in length no longer than two to three minutes

TIME LINE
November Term 4:
• Nominations called for from Year 5 students. Nominations presented to school Principal to put to the staff for ratification.
• Successful candidates present speeches to their class.
• Top candidates announced to school.
• Speeches presented to whole school. Students and staff vote.

December Term 4:
New leaders announced at Presentation Day.

Captains and Prefects Pledge
In accepting the position of a Student Leader at Charlestown Public School, I promise
• I will always try to do my best;
• By my example I will try to set a standard for the rest of the school in punctuality, attendance, application and sportsmanship;
• By my conduct within the school and in public, I will try to advance the name of Charlestown Public School;
• I will always try to participate in school functions such as Sports Carnivals and Assemblies and perform all my duties with pride and commitment.

ELECTION PROCESS
School Captain/Prefect
All Year 5 children may nominate and be nominated if they meet the above criteria.

Nominations are put to the staff for ratification. Students are allowed to nominate themselves.
The nominated students are asked to give a nomination speech to their class and then the top candidates present their speech to the whole school at a whole school assembly once the staff have confirmed they meet the criteria.

Following the speeches, Year K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 students vote in class. All staff vote. Students vote for 1 boy and 1 girl to be captain, and then the next 2 students with the highest votes are elected to the student leadership executive. In the event of a position becoming vacant, the student with the next highest votes will fulfil the position.

School Leaders for the following year are announced at Presentation Day and badges are presented.

SPORT HOUSE CAPTAINS

- Sports house captains will be voted for following the election of captains and prefects.
- School captains and prefects cannot run for sports house captain.
- Sports house captains must be in Year 6. Year 5 students may only be elected if there are no Year 6 students available.
- Votes will be taken at sport house meetings.
- Members of each sport house in Years K-6 will vote for their captain and vice-captain.
- Each nominee will be asked to speak very briefly to the sport house about why they should be elected.
- The boy or girl with the most votes will be captain.
- Voting will be by secret ballot.

HOUSE CAPTAINS ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Assist staff conduct house meetings.
- Organise house cheer squads.
- Organise and lead house activities during sports carnivals.
- Accept awards on behalf of their house at Presentation Day.
- Always display exemplary sportsmanship.

EVALUATION

This policy will be evaluated every year. The evaluation measures will be determined by the following criteria:

- number of students enrolled
- distribution of leadership roles
- needs of the school
- ratio of boys to girls