Student Leadership Policy

VISION STATEMENT

St Columba's Primary School aims to foster the total development of each individual, within a loving community, that is totally committed to supporting the Catholic faith, principles and ideals within the framework of the Mercy Values.

Art Lombardi   19 January 2018

St. Columba's School has developed a Year Six Leadership Program, which will be implemented at the commencement of each school year. The Program involves each student participating in school activities as leaders and thus, developing their own sense of maturity and leadership before they depart primary school. We believe that developing leadership in our students will enable them to reach out and participate with confidence as they interact with the wider local community. Our Ministry Leadership Program has been based on the Mercy Values.

Outlined below is an overview of the activities of each leadership section, and the rewards and benefits that will be offered to our school community and the wider community.

Leadership Positions of Responsibility
- Head and Deputy Head Boy & Girl
- Faction Captains – (Russell, Columbanus, Pascal and McAuley)
- Ministry Leadership Groups (All students)

The Selection and Voting Process

The Selection and Voting Process will consist of the following:

1. Year 5 students will present their speeches to the current Year 4, 5 & 6 students during Term 4, Week 5 or 6, each school year. Students may use palm cards in their presentation, no other props are allowed.

2. All staff members and the current students in Years 5 & 6 will vote for their preferred candidate in each category (Head Boy and Girl and Faction Captains – Boy and Girl). The staff and students will be invited to select their three preferred candidates on a ballot sheet. The first person mentioned will be given 3 points, second person mentioned 2 points and the third person 1 point. Candidates may not note for themselves.

3. The ballot papers will be collected and the votes will be tallied by a member of staff.

4. The students with the most votes will be appointed as Head Boy and Head Girl. The students with the second most votes will be appointed as Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl. The same process will apply for the Faction Captains.

5. In the event of two or more students receiving the same number of points, a count back system will occur. The student with the most number of first place votes will be appointed as the leader. In the event of two or more students still being equal in votes, the process will continue until a student has been selected.

6. The students elected to the above positions will lead the school community for the entire year. All elected leaders will need to be role models in our school and wider communities.

7. The community will be informed of the results in the school's newsletter.

8. **POWER OF VETO**: The School Principal shall have the power to veto any decision made during the selection and voting process.

9. The Principal has the authority to remove a student from a leadership position if their behaviour is deemed inappropriate and unacceptable.

10. School Captains/Vice-Captains: Please refer to the Intraschool and Interschool Selection Policy.

11. The elected Head Boy and Head Girl, and their deputies, will be required to attend the school's graduation mass (of the Yr 6 class above them) and participate in the hand over of the school flag and graduation candle.

Ministry Leadership Groups

To promote and teach leadership skills, all students will participate in the Ministry groups. The groups will be rotated each term, giving each student the opportunity to experience roles. The groups will meet once a fortnight (with a staff member) to plan and discuss their responsibilities and duties.

1. MERCY MINISTRY GROUP

The areas of responsibility may include:

- Mission activities – Mercy Mission Day.

- Leading prayer at school assemblies.

- Giving reports on events and celebrations at assembly.

- Helping out at Masses – setting up; data projector; helping younger children with readings, etc.

- St. Vincent de Paul Christmas collections.

- Promoting special Feast Day Celebrations – eg. School's Feast Day, Rosary, etc.

- Other fundraising activities – Lifelink, etc.

2. STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY GROUP

The areas of responsibility may include:

- Assisting at special 'planting projects' eg. Arbor Day.

- Litter Patrols.

- Plant Care.

- Permaculture garden – caretaker role.

- Plant nursery.

- Promoting 'water wise', 'waste wise, 'recycling' awareness in the school.

3. JUSTICE MINISTRY GROUP

The areas of responsibility may include:

- MC school assemblies (main role).

- Public Notices – maintaining school noticeboards with student displays and important notices.

- Flag raising.

- Welcoming guests – taking new parents on a tour of school and explaining special features and programs.

- Assisting during sports carnivals, tabloid sports, etc.

- Assisting with the distribution and monitoring of sporting equipment.

4. SERVICE MINISTRY GROUP

The area of responsibility may include:

- Visiting Senior Citizens Centres

- Helping out in the playground

- Safety awareness in the playground

5. COMPASSSION MINISTRY GROUP

The areas of responsibility may include:

- Buddying with younger students

- Helping students in the school

- Helping in the community

6. EXCELLENCE MINISTRY GROUP

The areas of responsibility may include:

- IT responsibilities

- Extra-curriculum activities

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Conclusion
The Year Six students are our student role models. They work hard and are successful in making our school a better place to live, work and play. They are the decision makers of tomorrow and we hope that through our Ministry Leadership Program they will develop skills and attitudes to help them to become active citizens within our present community and in the wider community.