



STUDENT LEADERSHIP POLICY

Rationale

St Patrick's College recognises the vital role of student leadership in developing the life of the Community as well as giving all students the opportunity to fully develop this aspect of their lives. Student leadership provides an opportunity for students to actively participate in the decision-making processes at the College. 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.

Scriptural Context

The word of the Lord was addressed to me, Jeremiah, saying,
'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;
Before you came to birth I consecrated you;
I have appointed you as prophet to the nations'.
I said, 'Ah Lord; look, I do not know how to speak: I am a child!'
But the Lord replied,
'Do not say, "I am a child".
Go now to those to whom I send you
And say whatever I command you.
Do not be afraid of them,
For I am with you to protect you'. Jeremiah 1:4-8

Policy

The school will offer students opportunities for leadership in both formal and informal settings across all aspects of school life.

Guidelines

Formal roles will include Captain of the College, Vice Captains of the College, House Captains and House Vice Captains.

A duly constituted Student Congress and Student Council will form the basis of the College's main formal leadership structure within the school. There will also be opportunities for students to take up leadership roles and develop leadership skills across other significant areas of the College.

The Student Council

The Student Council aims to further the life of the school community by encouraging the participation of students in the range of its dimensions, and by representing the interests of the students. It works with the Student Congress and ultimately with the College Leadership in developing student-based initiatives, and in involving students in the decision making processes as appropriate, to the advantage of all in the College.

1. The Student Council will be elected in Term Three of each academic year, and formally invested in Term Four at the Handover Assembly. Preliminary nominations might be sought at the beginning of Term Three.
2. A Captain of the College and two Vice Captains will be selected from the Council and appointed by the Headmaster. The means of their selection is at the discretion of the Headmaster, but will usually reflect student and staff preferences.
3. The Student Council will be comprised of Year Twelve students, including the Captain of the College and his Vice Captains, the Captain of each colour house and his Vice Captains. Their election by the incoming Year Twelve students and the staff will be considered on advice to the Headmaster, who makes the appointments. The nomination, election, appointment process will be conducted by the Headmaster, with the assistance of appropriate staff.
4. Although comprised of Year Twelve students, the Student Council represents the whole student body. It will extend its influence throughout the College by working closely with the Student Congress who will liaise with the Heads of Schools, Heads of House, Year Level Co-ordinators, staff and students of the various levels. It will be encouraged to use its initiative in developing appropriate responses to expressed and perceived student needs in a formal committee system through the Student Congress and its representative membership.
7. The Student Council will attempt to make the school community aware of its activities by classroom visitation, school and College assemblies, use of the daily bulletin, College newsletter and other platforms.
8. The Student Council will seek ratification of its decisions from appropriate members of the College Leadership, and will not act without its clear, specific approval. In enacting a ratified initiative, the Council will work through the school's recognised administrative structures. The Headmaster and staff appointed by the Headmaster will provide advice to help the Council with these and other procedural considerations.
9. Formal meetings of the Council will usually be fortnightly. The Headmaster or his representative will normally be present. The services of other people will be co-opted as necessary.

10. Every assistance to the function of the Council will be provided through, for example, sponsoring attendance at Student Leadership Conferences conducted by EREA.

The Student Congress

1. In Term Three each year, each year level within each house will elect two representatives to serve the Student Congress with the Student Council as its Executive body.
2. Congress will normally meet once per month or twice per term as appropriate.
3. Congressmen will form functional committees according to the nominated role for each house.
4. The House leadership will report to Congress at each meeting.
5. Congress will be chaired by the Captain of the College or his nominee from within the Student Council.

Other Leadership Appointments

The Headmaster appoints Captains and Vice-Captains for the College's:

1. performing arts ensembles and oratory groups.
2. sports
3. social justice groups

as well as class captains and vice captains in the Junior and Middle Schools.

Leadership Programmes

The College will offer developmental programmes in leadership in line with the stage of development of the students. Year 10 will be a major focus for leadership development.

Status of Policy: Ratified by the College Board, September 2009

Review: 2014