

Tuggerah Public School



Student Leadership Policy

Last amended: April 2017

PREAMBLE:

Tuggerah Public School encourages the development of student leadership. There are a number of leadership positions within the school which any child, dependent upon age, may aspire to hold.

The school encourages the development of self-responsibility as the basis for taking on greater responsibilities. Each child is expected to achieve at a level of personal excellence which is demonstrated through self-care, care for others, care for the physical school property and the reputation of the school.

The roles that students may take on include those of student leadership at a minister level. This level is available for only Year 6 students. Other major responsibility roles include Sporting House Captains and Vice Captains. Each class from Years 2 to 6 inclusive will elect School Parliament Members. Kindergarten and Year 1 will be represented on the School Parliament by the Captains and Vice Captains.

Roles, Elections and Candidatures for School Leadership Roles:

There will be ten ministers elected by secret ballot. However, an additional two ministers may be appointed at the discretion of the Principal. The ministerial body will be divided equally among the boys and girls. Should a minister resign for any reason or leave the school, their place on this body may be filled by a person nominated by the Principal from the Year 6 cohort. No vote is required in this instance. An election will not take place for any casual vacancy.

Procedures for the Election of Ministers, Vice Captains and Captains:

Nominations:

All Year 5 students may nominate themselves for the position of minister. Nominations are to be made in writing during the first four weeks of Term 4 of the year preceding their appointment as a minister. All nominations will be vetted by the school executive before proceeding to formal acceptance on the ballot paper. A child may be excluded from the ballot process due to poor attendance or poor behaviour in the preceding three terms at school. These children will be notified of their exclusion from the ballot, by the Principal, prior to its finalisation. There will be no appeal to the school executive decision on this matter. Once successfully nominated, each child will be expected to speak to the school student population outlining the purpose of their candidature.

Voting:

Children from Tuggerah Public School's Years 2-5 classes inclusive will be eligible to vote for members of the School Leadership Team. Voting will take place within five school days of the speeches being completed and prior to Week 8 of Term 4. All voting will be on the formal ballot paper. Each eligible student will vote for one boy and one girl who are their preferred choices for Captains of the school.

After the student votes have been counted, the top 10 students will be placed on a separate ballot form for each staff member, teaching and ancillary, to vote for the school captains. Each staff member will vote for one male and one female. The Stage 3 Assistant Principal will organise the entire election procedure.

Announcement:

The highest scoring male and female nominees will be offered the roles of Captain. The second highest vote recipients will be offered the roles of Vice Captain.

All ministers-elect will be notified of their success at the ballot by the Principal prior to the annual Presentation Night/Day Assembly. At this assembly ceremony the Captains' and Vice Captains' names will be announced. At this same ceremony all ministers, Vice Captains and Captains will be publicly sworn into office for the following academic year.

Roles of the Ministers:

The minister cohort will be responsible for the running of all student meetings including School Parliament, an advisory body that will inform the Principal of matters of concern to or of concern to the school. The ministers will not run the House meetings. The ministers will assist with the running of all assemblies. They will participate at official functions as required. They will be expected to lead the student body in displaying appropriate behaviours at all times, including the correct wearing of the full school uniform.

Dismissal:

A minister may be dismissed from office by the Principal for serious misdemeanours or repeatedly failing to adhere to school rules.

Other Student Roles Within the School:

Sporting House Leaders:

Any student who is not a minister and is a member of the Year 6 cohort may be nominated for the positions of Sporting House Captains, one boy and one girl for each House. Sporting House Vice Captains' roles will be filled by members of the Year 5 cohort. The House Captains will be elected within the first two weeks of Term 1. These elections will be conducted within the Houses, with Years 3-6 only voting. Voting will be by secret ballot and open to House members only.

Year 4 students will fill the roles of House Junior Captains, with Year 3 students taking on the roles of House Junior Vice Captains. Elections for these student leaders will take within two weeks of the commencement of the new school year. All students from Years 3 to 6 will be eligible to vote. Voting will be by secret ballot and open to House members only.

School Parliament Procedures

All students from Years 2-6 will elect a male and female student from their own class to represent them in the School Parliament. These elections will be held by the end of week 3 in Term 1 of the school year. Voting procedures for individual classes are to be decided by each class teacher according to the age of students. These students will be responsible for forwarding ideas and making decisions based on the class meetings and weekly School Parliament meetings as well as fundraising and leadership roles and opportunities.

Other leadership roles will be filled by students as the need arises.