

# St. Louis Community School - Prefect Policy

## Introduction

St. Louis Community School, through its Prefect team, recognises the important leadership role that senior students play in the growth and development of the school; as well as in the promotion of student voice in school.

## Rationale:

Prefects perform an important leadership role by acting as positive role models and advocates for younger students. The Prefect team provides opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills by taking on duties and responsibilities to affect positive change for the school community.

We have found that when students actively participate in leadership in school life, and their ideas and opinions are listened to and valued, they feel respected and encouraged to make further contributions.

## The benefits to the school and the students include:

1. A network of support for the student body
2. Positive influences on the climate of the school;
3. Increased cooperation from all students.
4. A strengthened school spirit;
5. Increased communication skills;
6. Improved academic performance for students involved;
7. Greater commitment to the school from the wider school community;

## Prefect Duties

Prefects are expected to be vigilant at all times. It is the responsibility of all prefects, whether on duty or not, to model leadership, to assist with maintaining good order and good standards of behaviour in the school and its environs.

The Prefect role is

- To represent all students in the school.
- To be available to attend meetings and carry out duties during lunch break.
- To take part in a rota of Senior Prefects to supervise at lunch time (e.g. Canteen, Quiet room, Social Hub etc.)
- To be available to assist at 1<sup>st</sup> Year induction, school Open Night and other school events.

- To represent the school at external events (which may happen outside normal school hours).
- To be aware of students who may be vulnerable and support them.
- To report important issues to teachers.
- Any student who seriously breaches the school's Code of Behaviour or fails to perform their duties of prefect, may be removed from the Prefect Team.

## Selection

Students selected to be prefects will have demonstrated their leadership within the student body and have the qualities deemed necessary to undertake a leadership role within the school.

The process for the selection of prefects is as follows:

1. Students from LCA1 and 5<sup>th</sup> Year will be invited to an assembly where the role of prefect and the selection process will be outlined.
2. Students must submit an application form by the closing date. Late applications will not be considered.
3. All students who submit an application form will be invited for an interview to discuss their application. Interviews will be conducted by external interviewers.
4. All staff will be offered the opportunity to vote on the students based on the students' suitability for the role of prefect.
5. The selection process will be broken down as follows: -
 

Quality of the application form	20%
- Interview	40%
- Staff vote	40%
6. The successful students will be notified of their position as prefect following the selection process. Once offered the position, students will be asked to sign a Prefect Contract in order to confirm their position.
7. Students may request in writing to the Principal their total percentage of marks scored in each of the three sections of the selection process.
8. The number of students selected as prefects each year will be between 10 and 16. The final number will depend on the needs of the school and the number will be reviewed annually.
9. Two Head Prefects will be chosen by staff and students from the selected prefect team. All 5<sup>th</sup> Year and LCA 1 students and staff will be given the opportunity to vote for the two Head Prefects, (one male, one female). The two students with the most votes will be offered the position of Head Prefect.

## Training

St. Louis Community School will endeavour to provide training for prefects to develop their leadership skills. Students may undergo training in Fifth and Sixth Year.

The prefects are guided and supported in this role by the Prefect coordinator and the school's management team. The significant role that they play and contribution they make is recognised at the end of the school year where they are rewarded with an end of year celebration.

Signed Patrick J. Kilbane Date 7/4/2022

Mr. Patrick J. Kilbane.  
Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Regina Anderson Date 7/4/22.

Ms. Regina Anderson  
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management