

Junior School Council 2018

Rationale

The Junior School Council will provide an opportunity for students to develop leadership, communication and interpersonal skills and have empowerment in the decision making process of Bell Primary School. The Junior School Council aims to

- Develop caring and responsible attitudes within the children
- Provide an avenue for the development of student voice within the school
- Provide students with a sense of pride and achievement
- Raise student awareness of local and global issues and associated support options.

Guidelines

- Junior School councillors are recognised as leaders in the school community.
- One Junior School Council representative is elected from each grade, using the democratic process. *(see references at the end of this policy)*
- Regular meetings are held weekly
- Representatives will be made aware of their roles and responsibilities as school leaders.
- Decisions made are reported to all students, teachers and parents.
- 'Vice representatives' attend meetings in the absence of leaders.
- A notice will be placed in Bell News and on Year Level Blogs to inform parents and the community of the timeline for the process.

Implementation

- One student from each grade (Year 2 to Year 6) is elected by their peers to be classroom delegates at Junior School Council meetings. (see 'Steps for Selection' at the end of this document).
- Elected Junior School Council representatives are presented with a badge of office at in recognition of their important role in the school community. Their names will be published in Bell News.
- Weekly meetings are held with the Junior School Council teacher support team.
- An agenda is set at the beginning of each meeting. Students have the opportunity to raise issues as part of each meeting agenda.
- At the first meeting of each school semester Junior School Council will discuss individual and collective roles and responsibilities.
- Minutes will be taken by both students and staff. These minutes will be published and provided to all classes in the school.
- Representatives will report against minutes taken and discuss with their class peers, issues raised at the meetings. Items can also be raised which may be brought to subsequent Junior School Council meetings. Students will be selected to report back to classes without a representative (Prep/Grade 1)
- 'Vice representatives' will represent leaders when unavailable due to absence.
- Junior School Councillors will be required, on occasion, to represent the school community at informal and formal occasions.
- Students will have opportunities to support those who are less fortunate by providing services or by contributing to fundraising activities arranged within the school community or by outside agencies.
- A Social Service fundraiser may be undertaken once a term. The focus of this will be decided by Junior School Council representatives after discussion with supervising teachers, and after feedback from classes and staff.

Selection of Representative Process

1. Discuss the role of the Junior School Council.
2. Discuss the role of Junior School Council representatives.
3. Discuss the responsibilities of the representatives.
4. Call for nominations.
5. Students to be given time to prepare a speech or presentation. Elections will be held in **week 5**.
6. Collect votes via a 'secret' ballot. Remind students they can vote for themselves.
7. The student with the most votes will be elected Junior School Council representative for the class. The student with the second most will be elected 'Vice Representative.
8. Badges will be presented at a whole school assembly (date to be confirmed).