

JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL POLICY

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 Ivanhoe Primary School.

Purpose:

The Junior School Council;

- provides a mechanism which opens two-way communication between school management and students.
- introduces students to the procedures involved in the democratic process of decision making.
- creates rules which allow for fairness and safety of students whilst at school.
- allows representatives to foster a sense of responsibility for their role as a student delegates and leaders within the school.

Guidelines:

- Junior School Councillors are recognised as leaders in the school community.
- Nominations for Junior School Council representation should only be students who have not previously held an active role within the grades 1 to 3 and 4 to 6. i.e. Any child has therefore two opportunities during their Primary School experience to hold office as Junior School Council Representative.
- Each Year **four** Junior School Council representatives are elected in each grade, using the democratic process. (see references at the end of this policy)
- Regular meetings are held and all students from Year 1 to Year 6 are represented.
- At the beginning of each semester Junior School Council representatives will be made aware of their roles and responsibilities as school leaders.
- Decisions made are reported to all students, teachers and parents.
- 'Deputy' leaders attend meetings in the absence of leaders. 'Deputies' will take over the role of class representative during the second half of the year. Thus, four students per year have the opportunity to represent their class at Junior School Council meetings.

Implementation:

- Four students from each grade (Year 1 to Year 6) (2 male and 2 female) are elected by their peers to be classroom delegates at Junior School Council meetings. (see 'Steps for Selection' at the end of this policy). The leaders and 'sub-leaders' or 'deputies' will reverse their roles in semester two.
- Elected Junior School Council representatives are presented with a badge of office at the beginning of each semester in recognition of their important role in the school community. Their names will be published in the school newsletter.
- Fortnightly meetings are held with the Principal and Assistant Principal.
- 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. A copy of the minutes will be published on the main school notice board.
- 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.
- Grade 6 students will report Junior School Council decisions to Prep classes and represent their issues at meetings.
- ‘Deputy’ leaders 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.

Evaluation:

- Student Opinion Survey
- Student enthusiasm to participate in Junior School Council.
- Feedback from visiting adults who participate in school tours.
- Feedback from Principal, Assistant Principal and staff.

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Equal Opportunity Policy

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

References:

Selection of Representative Process

- **Discuss the role of the Junior School Council.**
- **Discuss the role of Junior School Council representatives.**
- **Discuss the responsibilities of the representatives.**
- **Call for nominations**
- **Ask nominee for acceptance of the role.**
- **Collect votes via a ‘secret’ ballot or private show of hands.**
- **Remind students they can vote for themselves.**
- **Two boys and two girls are selected as leader for the year.**
- **Celebrate their success.**