
ESSEX HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL **JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL POLICY**

Rationale

Essex Heights Primary school aims to build a school culture where teachers and students work together and student voice is heard and respected. Students have a positive contribution to make within the decision-making processes of the school. When students are actively involved in these processes, they build their confidence and self-efficacy, students have an enhanced sense of commitment to the school and its programs. Teachers and school leaders receive valuable feedback that can lead to improved teaching practice and contribute to school improvement. The Junior School Council (JSC) aims to:

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

Guidelines

- All students in Years 3–6 are represented on the JSC.
- The JSC will meet regularly, with supervising staff.
- JSC representatives will be responsible for discussing matters at JSC meetings and will be responsible for taking notes, leading discussions and reporting to their grades.
- JSC representatives will make recommendations on aspects of school life. Teachers co-design opportunities for students to initiate school events, and to engage in planning and facilitating them. The representatives will have a clear role description.
- The supervising and class teachers will discuss the responsibilities of the JSC representatives with the students involved. Leadership skills will be explicitly taught.
- Social Service will provide opportunities for students to be proactive, contributing members of the broader community. Teachers co-design opportunities for students to build partnerships within and beyond the school.

Implementation

- Each grade from Year 3 to Year 6 will select two Captains annually to participate in JSC meetings. Two Vice-Captains may also be selected each semester.
- The same student will not be elected as the Vice-Captain for consecutive semesters.
- The JSC representatives will meet on a regular basis.
- Class teachers will provide opportunities for students to discuss issues which may be raised at JSC meetings and time for feedback and follow up from meetings.
- JSC Coordinators will prepare an agenda for meetings.

- JSC recommendations require the approval of the Principal, Staff, and where appropriate, School Council, prior to implementation.
- JSC students will be supported to engage with the school community in different forums.
- 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 JSC representatives after discussion with supervising teachers, and after feedback from classes and staff.
 - The proposed Social Service activity will require the approval of the Principal who may liaise with the Parents and Friends Association.
- Minutes of JSC meetings will be circulated to the School Council, the Bursar, the staff and the Parents and Friends' Association.
- **Minutes will be displayed in the Year 3 to 6 classrooms.**

References

Amplify – Empowering students through voice, agency and leadership. Department of Education and Training, May 2018

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/school/teachers/teachingresources/practice/Amplify.pdf>

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years as part of the school's review cycle.

George Perini

Jennifer Bittner

Principal

School Council President

School Council – September 2020