



BIDDABAH ELECTION OF STUDENT LEADERS POLICY

Rationale

All students, in all grades, can contribute in a positive manner, to our school.

Leadership opportunities are available for all students, in a variety of forms, through school activities in academic, sporting and cultural areas. In Year 6 leadership opportunities are formalised through specific Student Leadership roles. The formal Student Leaders, in Year 6, are,

School Captains (one girl and one boy) School Vice Captains (one girl and one boy) and Prefects (two girls and two boys).

House Captains (four girls and four boys from Year 6) and House Vice Captains (four girls and four boys from Year 5) representing each of the four houses.

Library Monitors (actual numbers decided by the School Librarian)

Student Leaders are role models for all other students. They are expected to exhibit the standards and expected behaviours of Biddabah Public School and to motivate and lead their fellow students.

The Election of School Captains, School Vice Captains and Prefects

Candidate Selection

- All Year 5 students will become familiar with this policy on reaching Year 5 through familiarisation led by their classroom teacher.
- Year 5 teachers will meet together with the Year 5 students and outline the expectations and roles of Student Leaders in our school. This will occur at the beginning of their Year 5 classes and in Term 4.
- The number of Prefects elected each year will be eight, regardless of the size of the cohort.
- There will be four girl Prefects and four boy Prefects, who will include a girl and boy School Captain and a girl and boy School Vice Captain.
- Nominations will be open to all Year 5 students on a withdrawal basis: that is all students are nominated unless a student expressly desires not to be considered for personal or religious reasons.
- Ineligible students are those who have lost a behaviour level in Year 5 (ie. two bookings in the current or election year).
- The students in Year 5 will then have eight votes each, which they must give to eight different nominees, four to girls and four to boys, which may include themselves. The Year 5 students will tick the names which are in alphabetical order, in two gender based columns.
- The highest scoring four girls and four boys will become possible nominees for the Year 2-5 voters and all interested staff who wish to vote.
- Any staff member who is interested will also have eight votes, each to be distributed between eight different nominees. Each of the voters will record their eight choices on the same voting sheet used by the year 5 students. The highest scoring 4 girls and 4 boys will be nominees for the Year 2-5 voters and all interested staff who wish to vote..
- As the two lists may contain common names, rankings from the Year 5 and staff will be collated to provide

16 nominees in total, eight boys and eight girls by the Year 5 teachers. These are the nominees for the next stage of voting. In the event of a tied vote for the 8th position, the name will be pulled out of a hat. All nominees will be advised of their success or otherwise, in private, prior to the publication of the 16 candidates.

Candidate Preparation

- The 16 candidates will be invited to compile a profile using a photograph (taken by the school photographer earlier in the year) and describing why they would make a good Student Leader.
- This proforma will consist of: All about me, What I like about Biddabah Public School and Why I would make a good Student Leader. The proforma will be completed at school in the computer lab. These completed proformas will be displayed in the COLA area for the week preceding the voting by the school voters.
- The 16 candidates will also deliver a minute speech, using no props, in which they are invited to tell us why they deserve a vote. This speech will be delivered to the Year 2-5 section of the school, the staff and the candidates' families. This speech will be prepared at school and will be checked by a Year 5 teacher. Students will be encouraged to show their individuality and to distinguish their views from those of the other candidates. Any unwarranted changes or inclusions will invite a voting penalty. These speeches will be delivered in gender groups, in an order pulled from a hat. Absent candidates will prepare a taped speech at school under the supervision of their classroom teacher.
- The 16 candidates will be reminded that only eight will be successful in obtaining a position.
- Speeches will be conducted if possible in Year 6's absence at High School Orientation, with voting concluded by recess.
- At the conclusion of the speeches the families and candidates will be reformed of the process to be followed, by the Assistant Principal Primary coordinating Stage 3 (returning officer).

Voting for the Candidates

- The Year 2-5 section of the school and all interested staff members will then vote for these 16 students, ticking four candidates on a ballot paper (two ticks for two different girls and two ticks for two different boys. The candidates themselves vote also. The candidates will receive a ranking based on the students' votes and a ranking based on the staff votes. The 4 girls and the 4 boys who rank the highest when the ranks are combined will be the prefects in the coming year.
- Ballot papers will be different for each class. This will avoid the donkey vote and will give the participating students the opportunity to have a different position on the paper.
- Classroom teachers will tally votes on a spare voting sheet and will send voting slips and tally sheet to the returning officers.
- Each child will be informed of their success or otherwise in the election process, privately and sensitively, by the supervisor of the election process, the Assistant Principal Primary coordinating Stage three, prior to any public announcement. The counting of votes will not be done solely by any one individual, but will be supervised by the Assistant Principal Primary coordinating Stage three and will be conducted with at least one other staff member (returning officers).
- The announcement and publication of the eight prefects will be made prior to Presentation Day, possibly at a Loyal Assembly of the students in the week preceding Presentation Day.
- All prefects will prepare a thank you speech to be used if becoming a captain or vice captain. This speech will be reviewed by the Assistant Principal coordinating Stage three (returning officer) and a Year 5 teacher.
- Prefects will be allocated to areas of responsibility and will be mentored by staff members to develop leadership skills. Staff will mentor the prefects in portfolio areas which reflect the needs and the interests of the school e.g. environment, charities, recycling.

Election of Captains and Vice Captains

- When the voting has been completed and the eight prefects have been announced by the Principal, the election of the School Captains and Vice Captains will take place, overseen by the returning officers, (the Assistant Principal coordinating Stage three and the Principal).
- Ranking from Prefects The eight prefects will each have a vote for a girl and a vote for a boy and a vote for themselves. Consideration will be given to this ranking.
- Ranking from Students Consideration will be given to the popular vote that has been conducted in Years 2-5 in ranking of the prefects.
- Ranking from Staff Interested staff will be given the opportunity to vote for School Captains and School Vice Captains from the eight prefects. That is, like the Prefects a staff member will have a vote for a girl and a vote for a boy. Consideration will be given to this ranking.
- The returning officers, (the Assistant Principal coordinating Stage three and the Principal) will then determine the Captains and Vice Captains using the rankings from the Prefects, Staff and Voters.
- The Girl and Boy with the highest ranking will be School Captains. The Girl and the Boy with the second highest rankings will be the School Vice Captains.

- The announcement of the School Captains and Vice Captains and their induction, will be made on Presentation Day, by the Principal. The Prefects will also be inducted on Presentation Day.
- These eight (Captains, Vice Captains and Prefects) will not be eligible for election as a House Captain.

The Election of House Captains

- Captains, Vice Captains and Prefects will be ineligible for election as House Captains.
- All House members Years 1-6 will vote for a Boy and Girl House Captain from Year 6 and a Boy and Girl Vice House Captain from Year 5.
- Nominees may prepare a speech. All nominees are expected to speak to the house voters giving reasons for their election. Absent candidates may prepare a one minute speech to be played on a tape.
- The election will be conducted by the House Patrons.
- House Captains will receive their badges at an assembly in Term One.
- In the event of Year 5 or Year 6 having ineligible candidates, students from the other Year will be considered.

The Election of Librarians

- Interested students will inform our Librarian.
- Due to the specific nature of the role, the School Librarian will use his/her prior knowledge of the students, who he/she has taught.
- Library monitors will receive their badges at the same assembly as the House Captains.
- Prefects and House Captains may be Library Monitors.