

# Student Leadership Statement at St Joseph's Narrabeen

## January 2020

At St Joseph's Catholic School, we believe all people are created in God's image and likeness. It is our school's mission to provide the children in our care, an experience of "a Catholic community of learning". Learning to be a self-directed and independent human being is a crucial task for St Joseph's Catholic school. Providing children with opportunities to learn about leadership within the context of our Catholic culture is central to this endeavour. We believe that giving students opportunities to have a genuine leadership role nurtures the qualities of responsibility and respect.

As part of our pastoral care and well being initiatives, students are given opportunities to be leaders in various roles that take on more responsibility as they move through the stages of school. This gives students a voice and some autonomy over decisions made in the school.

The majority of the leadership roles are allocated to the year 6 students (see 'Year 6 student leadership teams' below). Year 5 students are also allocated various roles to begin to learn the responsibilities of school leadership.

### 1. **Class captains**

All classes vote for a class captain each term. The class captain is asked to represent their class and complete some leadership tasks in the classroom. Badges are presented at a Mass or assembly at the beginning of each term.

### 2. **Year 6 student leadership teams**

All year 6 students are part of a leadership team for their final year at primary school.

Year 6 class numbers fluctuate annually. The number of teams and the number of members for each team can vary depending on the total number of students in Year 6 and requirements in the school but generally the teams are:

**Civics and Citizenship team**  
**IT/Library team**  
**Sport team**

**Environment team**  
**Mission/Liturgy team**  
**Wellbeing team**

These teams genuinely help to organise, co-ordinate or roster school processes and events that add to the smooth running of the school. Each team has a teacher mentor to assist them in their work and to consult in decision making.

### **The process for choosing members for each team.**

- A. In term 4 before the year of office for the leaders the students hear from the current year 6 leaders who prepare a presentation about their role. The year 6 teacher, AP and principal also speak with the incumbent leaders about expectations of leaders and how to choose the role suited to their skills and talents.
- B. The students write a letter addressed to the principal nominating the team they would like to join and explaining why they are best suited to that team. The student must nominate 3 ordered preferences.
- C. The current year 5 teacher, next year's year 6 teacher and school leadership team review the nominations and preferences and discern which students are best suited to which teams. Most students receive their 1st or 2nd choice
- D. The teams are announced at the end of year Mass. Badges are presented as part of the Mass at the beginning of the following year.

3. **Year 5 leadership roles**

Year 5 students are buddies to the St Lucy's satellite classes of kinder and year 1 (18-20 children per year).

The year 5 teacher works with the St Lucy's teachers to choose the buddies for the St Lucy's children.

The Year 5 students then assist those children in the playground when needed and work with them in allocated buddy time and for class assembly supervision and rostered prayer.

Year 5 students also are rostered on as monitors for the playground equipment that is stored in the shed and brought out each day.