



Student Leadership

Rationale

Coniston Public School acknowledges the important role student leadership has within the school by providing a range of opportunities for students to participate either through election or selection.

The election of School Captains and Vice-captains, and House Leaders provides an avenue for Year 6 students to take on leadership roles on behalf of the student body and the school. These students work closely with the principal and/or in-school coordinators as well as students.

The election of members of the Student Representative Council, (SRC), provides opportunities for practical leadership and organisational skills to be developed across the school. SRC members consult with class members and work with School Captains and Vice-captains, the SRC patron and the principal. SRC members are elected from Year 1 to Year 5 with the School Captains and Vice-captains representing both Year 6 and the whole school.

Additional leadership roles include Library Monitors and Ganugan (permaculture garden) Ambassadors. Library Monitors are selected by the Librarian from a list of interested Stage 3 (Years 5 and 6) students. Ganugan Ambassadors are selected by the coordinator from a list of interested Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) and Stage 3 (Years 5 and 6) students.

Purpose

This framework outlines the eligibility criteria and processes for electing or selecting eligible student leaders. It also provides details about induction and roles and responsibilities.

Framework

Eligibility

Exemplary students are eligible for:

- election as School Captain or Vice-captain, House Leader, or a member of the Student Representative Council.
- selection as Library Monitors or Ganugan Ambassadors.

Students may hold only one elected role but may hold both an elected and selected role.

Student leaders must:

- consistently demonstrate the values of the Department of Education and Coniston Public School.
- always do their best with their learning.
- consistently act responsibly, respectfully and safely.
- be well behaved at all times at school and when representing the school.
- take pride in the school and the wearing of the school's uniform.
- show respect to staff, other students and members of the public both at school and when off-site.

The eligibility criteria are to be maintained throughout the year. The consequence of not maintaining the criteria may be removal from the leadership role for the remainder of the

year. This decision is at the discretion of the principal and/or delegate/s, such as the Executive Leadership Team or relevant coordinator.

Elected Student Leaders

School Captains and Vice-captains

The election process for School Captains and Vice-captains will occur in Term 4 of each calendar year with students drawn from that year's Year 5 cohort. There will be one male and one female School Captain and one male and one female Vice-captain to ensure role models for both genders. However, if there are less than four eligible students from either gender or less than twenty eligible students in the Year 5 cohort, then the roles will not be gender specific.

Election process

- In Week 4, Year 5 students are informed of this framework by the relevant staff member (usually Stage 3 teacher) with an emphasis on the eligibility component.
- Students in Year 5 who are considered eligible may be formally nominated by a peer then seconded by a different peer. Nominations are due to the principal by the end of Week 5.
- In Week 6, the principal and staff discuss the nominations, applying the eligibility criteria.
- The principal verbally informs both successful and unsuccessful nominees.
- Successful nominees prepare a one-minute speech to present in Week 7 to other students and parents/carers who may be present.
- Props and inducements are not to be used throughout the election process.
- The voting process will be completed as soon as practical after the speeches.
- Students from Kindergarten to Year 5 are eligible to vote.
- Voting involves placing an 'x' next to the name / photo of one male candidate and one female candidate or one candidate only if the election is not gender specific. Staff are also entitled to vote.
- The completed ballots are forwarded to the principal for collation. To be eligible for the final count, a student must have received at least one vote from a staff member.
- The male and female students who receive the highest number of votes are deemed School Captains for the following year. The male and female students who receive the second highest number of votes are deemed Vice-captains for the following year. If the role is not gender specific, the four students receiving the highest number of votes will be offered the positions in rank order.
- The parents/carers of the successful students will be contacted by the principal.
- Captains and Vice-captains are invested at the Presentation Assembly with their badges being presented by their parents/carers.

House Leaders

The election of House Leaders for Magpies (blue), Emus (red) and Kookaburras (yellow) occurs during the initial House meeting held in Term 1 of each school year. The role of House Leaders is not gender specific.

Election process

- Eligible Year 6 students are nominated by members of their House. If they accept the nomination, they are placed on the list of prospective House Leaders. If there are less than twenty students in Year 6, the position of House Leader is open to all students in Stage 3.
- Students vote for one nominee via secret ballot.

- The two students with the highest number of votes are deemed the House Leaders.

House Leaders are inducted at a whole school assembly early in the year of election with their badges being presented by their parents/carers.

Student Representative Council

The Student Representative Council's (SRC) prime function is to involve students in the governance of the school at appropriate levels and work towards improving the wellbeing of other students.

SRC members are elected at the commencement of each year via a secret ballot held in each class that is represented by students from Year 1 – Year 5. Kindergarten and Year 6 students are not eligible to be members of the SRC.

Each class is entitled to two members. For multi-grade classes, two representatives are elected on a proportional basis, excepting a K/1 multi-age class that is entitled to one Year 1 member only and a Year 5/6 multi-age class that is entitled to one Year 5 member only. School Captains and Vice-captains are also members of the SRC, representing both Year 6 and the whole school.

School Captains & Vice-captains are to be trained in, and take on where capable, the roles of chairperson, deputy chair, treasurer and secretary. Minutes or notes from each meeting are to be taken then reproduced for representatives to share with their classes.

A member of the staff will be the patron of the SRC, guiding students through their meetings, offering suggestions and advice regarding activities, and providing support and guidance as necessary.

All decisions of the SRC must be vetted by the principal, Executive Leadership Team member/s and/or staff for consideration before implementation. SRC fundraising events, as with all school fundraising, need to be based on a predetermined focus.

Election process

- Eligible students are nominated by members of their class. If they accept, they are placed on a list of prospective candidates.
- Students vote for one nominee via a secret ballot.
- The two students with the highest number of votes are deemed the SRC members.

Members of the SRC are inducted at a whole school assembly early in the year of election with their badges being presented by their parents/carers.

Roles and Responsibilities for Elected School Leaders

Elected student leaders may have the following roles and responsibilities although from time to time they may be asked to assist in other ways.

- Representing the school at school and community events
- Conducting school assemblies
- Welcoming special guests to the school
- Thanking special guests and visiting performers
- Liaising with the principal on various activities
- Contributing to the school's annual self-evaluation process

Selected Student Leaders

Early in the school year, Stage 3 students may also express an interest to become Library Monitors. Similarly, Stage 2 and Stage 3 students may express an interest to become a Ganugan Ambassador.

Coordinating teachers will select up to eight students from this interested pool. The selection will be based on the suitability of each student to the role and their capability to carry out the role with minimal direction.

Selected leaders will undertake roles and responsibilities as requested or directed by the relevant coordinator.

Students selected for these roles are inducted at a whole school assembly held early each year. These roles are maintained for a period of one year.

The Librarian may choose to divide the eight students into two teams. In this case, each team will be inducted for one semester only with the induction assembly held early in each semester.

Acknowledgements

The Coniston Public School Student Leadership Framework was developed in consultation with the 2021 Executive Leadership Team, representatives from the current student leadership team and their coordinators, and the P&C.

Implementation date

Term 4 2021

Revision date

Term 3 2024