



Student Leadership

Some changes to our current system of choosing student leaders.

After receiving feedback from parents, staff and some senior students for the last couple of years about the process involved in choosing School Leaders, we have been working on this as a staff team. Please understand that this does not mean the students who have been student leaders have failed to deliver in this or in past years, they have done very well. However, we feel that there may be a better way to make student leadership more meaningful for all of our senior students.

As a result, we would like to share some proposed changes to the process and invite you to share with us your thoughts.

Our first focus question we asked was:

What is the purpose of having student leaders anyway?

We believe it is important for students to experience leadership opportunities during their schooling, to learn the art of building relationships within teams, defining identities and achieving tasks effectively. It also provides an opportunity to learn to identify and display effective communication and interpersonal skills.

Aim of student leadership at Carmel Primary

To give our senior students the opportunity to develop the skills listed above.

So, what can we do?

We have been searching far and wide to see what others have tried. We think perhaps that one model stands out from the rest and this is the one shared here.

All students in Year 6 have an opportunity to lead for one term of the year. Students would work in groups and share one of several responsibilities.

How will this model help?

- It will include opportunities for quieter students who do not put themselves forward. With encouragement, many would have the leadership skills required.
- It will reduce the potential hurt to students because they were not chosen for a leadership position...
- Provide opportunities for more students to learn valuable skills of leadership.

Some of the responsibilities to be shared:

Pastoral Care – helping the Chaplain prepare for weekly Chapel periods, take occasional class worships for other classrooms. Welcoming guests who visit the school for special events etc.

Sport – helping with the care, collection and selection of sports equipment. This would also involve helping prepare for events such as Cross Country and Combined Schools Sports Day. Also, helping run or coordinate a lunch time activity a couple of times each term.

Environmental Caretakers – assisting with projects such as care of chickens, garden areas, watering, waste management etc.

Library and Admin Support – helping with setting up library activities at lunchtimes, collect book boxes from classrooms for the librarian, caring for the flags each day, helping give out various notes and deliveries from the front office.

Each area of responsibility would have just a couple of students each term and each would have authentic tasks to complete. Each group would also come under the leadership of a staff member who may, or may not be, their class teacher. This would lighten the load on the Year 6 teacher and allow other staff members the opportunity to share their leadership expertise.

There would be:

- **Leadership training** for all students – in class as part of the curriculum for Health & Encounter particularly.
- **Feedback** for students from staff about their involvement in leadership activities.

If you would like to give feedback about this new direction for Student Leadership, please either pop in and chat with me, phone or send an email. We value your feedback.

Kind regards

Janine Taylor
Principal