

St. Matthew's Catholic Primary School

Student Leadership Policy



Jesus is calling you to be a disciple with a mission!

Go,

do not be afraid,

and serve.

Pope Francis, July 2013

St. Matthew's Catholic Primary School.

Student Leadership Policy

Mission Statement:

This is the policy for curriculum and is set within the context of the whole school aims and Mission Statement:

The role of a Pupil leader is to support the Catholic life of the school. Many duties include:

- Ensuring the Catholic life of the school is visible and vibrant throughout the school environment
- Supporting the school in its Mission Statement

Policy Statement

In line with the school Mission Statement, St Matthew's Catholic Primary School believe that all children should be given the opportunity to lead an initiative or hold a position of responsibility that impacts the school as a whole. It is an important part of our citizenship education and helps support children prepare to be active citizens of the future. We also aim to ensure that student leadership opportunities are available to all students equally, with no bias or discrimination based on merit. .

St Matthew's Catholic Primary school therefore aims to develop, support and resource opportunities through which children can:

- Play an active role in supporting the established values, practices and standards of the school
- Support the School and wider community
- Develop their own skills and attributes in preparation for future education and beyond
- Offer a range of roles and responsibilities to all our children
- Allow children the opportunity to help improve the school environment
- To contribute to whole school improvement

All roles that are available in our Student Leadership teams will be advertised (as appropriate) and all children are given the opportunity to apply for positions of responsibility. These opportunities allow the children to learn that they can effect positive change and take on roles of responsibility which prepare them for life beyond school.

The term pupil leadership refers to education principles and practices that reflect the importance of providing children with the opportunities and support to play a role in making the decisions that affect them. The principles of effective pupil leadership include:

- Recognising that pupils have opinions on issues that matter in the classroom, in the school, and in the community.
- Giving pupils an active role in influencing decisions about these issues that affect them.
- Enabling pupils to participate as active young citizens.

There is much evidence to suggest that when pupils engage with pupil leadership programmes that have a positive impact their capacity for learning increases. With this in mind, all pupils from Year 1 upwards are all given the opportunity to play an active role in the life of the school and contribute to many areas of our effective school community and be a member of a Pupil Leadership Team that will make a difference to their school community each and every day!

Expectations of pupils

All children are expected fulfil the role to a high standard, those children selected to carry out leadership roles are chosen with high expectations to follow school rules.

Children selected for leadership roles receive these roles based on exemplary behaviour, which we expect to be evident throughout the year. These include:

- Respecting and observing school rules at all times, by not only themselves, but correcting other children who are not following the school rules
- Wearing uniform correctly and proudly
- To be punctual both in school and for duties and to fulfil these duties to the best of their abilities
- To be helpful, polite and hardworking in and outside of the classroom
- To treat others fairly and display positive qualities which are evident to all children
- To act as role models for other children in the school
- To represent St. Matthew's Catholic Primary school in an excellent manner.
- To promote and manage good manners and positive behaviour around school

Rewards and Privileges

All children that are selected to be part of the leadership team are rewarded, in assembly, with badges and certificates in front of their peers. The student leadership team will also be rewarded half termly with activity such as: Disco, party, fitness Friday's and many more! This will be subject to discussion and will be decided in a democratic way. Children will also be rewarded by teachers and members of staff for completing duties successfully and for the help that they give around school.

Head Boy and Head Girl

The Head Boy and Girl of the school are the ultimate role models for all other pupils in the school. Duties of the Head Boy and Girl will consist of representing the school, carrying out different given roles and jobs. They will be called upon to tour new parents, pupils or visitors to the school and any candidates as part of any recruitment process. They will welcome visitors to the school and act as ambassadors for the school. The role of Head Boy and Head Girl will become high profile across the school.

Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl

The Deputy Head Boy and Girl will deputise in the absence of the Head Boy and Girl but moreover, will work alongside the Head Boy and Head Girl as ambassadors for the school with similar roles, including helping out at parents evening and welcoming visitors to our school.

School Prefects

Our Senior Prefects work under the direction of the class teacher to organise and deploy the Prefect team. They are a direct link to reporting incidents and concerns to the Senior Leaders and Teachers in school. Senior Prefects are chosen due to their strong organisational skills and ability to delegate as part of a team. They also meet on a regular basis with the current Student Leadership leader

Prefects

Our team of Prefects support whole school behaviour, particularly during transition times in the school day. Their jobs include: monitoring 'quiet transitions' in the corridors; providing positive role models for behaviour; welcoming pupils to whole school assemblies and carrying out uniform and lunch time checks. The prefects are also called upon to support with special events such as organising activities during sports days or welcoming visitors to the school. Prefects take on roles and responsibilities such as:

- Helping out teaching assistants in classrooms at break time and lunch time
- Ensuring that children are walking in and out of school at the end of break and lunch time in an orderly and respectful manner
- Helping set up both prayer and praise assemblies
- Helping the office staff giving out letters to all classes
- Helping and guiding class monitors with their duties
- Helping out in the dinner hall, helping to give advice on the packed lunch policy to children.
- Collecting team and attendance points on a weekly basis

Monitors

Our team of monitors are chosen by the class teacher within each class. These roles enable children to take on positions of responsibility within the school, in preparation for aiming to become a prefect in Year 6. Monitors will be given various roles and responsibilities in shadowing prefects and will be given roles to work alongside the prefects. Monitors will also be considered by class teachers for any jobs in class or around school. They work directly with pupils to improve the 'behaviour for learning' in school.

School Council / School's Parliament

Our School Council members are elected to represent their peer groups in all matter regarding school improvement. The School Council members act as the official voice of all the children within our school. The Council discusses and decides on things that matter to the children and are important for the whole school including identifying a chosen charity to be the benefactor of school fund raising events.

What does a school council do?

Our school council is a *formal group of pupils* who act as *representatives of their classmates in discussing school issues* with the headteacher and staff. It's a brilliant way of representing and contributing to [Pupil Voice](#) in your school. Students are elected to represent the views of all pupils and also to improve their school. "School council" means all kinds of school-based groups run by students, including student forums and youth parliaments. They help to make decisions about how the school is run and take on projects that support the children's learning and development, such as organising charity events, representing the school at outside events or ensuring the school is environmentally friendly. School councils are usually elected annually by the other children. A school council does a number of things:

- A school council usually meets with a teacher present to discuss and sort out problems. These could include school lunches, behaviour or ideas for fundraising or charity events.
- Members of the school council are responsible for carrying out the ideas that have been agreed upon, such as planning discos, creating posters, or meeting with catering staff.
- Each year, every class from Y1- Y6 will normally elect one representative to be members of the school council. The council will then meet to elect officers such as Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. A total of 12 pupils.

School Parliament:

School's Parliament gives the young people of Liverpool an opportunity to have a voice on matters within the city and to be heard by people of influence in the running of the city of Liverpool. Meetings of School's Parliament take place in the Council Chamber of Liverpool Town Hall.

The Parliament meets as 2 separate Houses. The Upper House represents those young people aged 11-19 and the Lower House represents those aged 7-11. We currently have seven representatives at School's Parliament from Y5 and Y6.

Play Leaders

Our Play Leaders volunteer their time to support the younger pupils at play times. They work closely with Mrs Dunbar. The leaders are a group of Year 5 and 6 pupils, who volunteer on a Rota basis. The play leaders play an important part in ensuring that our youngest children are able to enjoy active and happy playtimes. Another of the aims of the scheme is that it will increase the amount of physical activity undertaken during playtime and reduce the amount of behaviour issues on the playground. It is hoped there will be a whole school impact in terms of children's behaviour both at lunchtime and in afternoon lessons. Play leaders aim this year to help and liaise with younger children and children in the infants to ensure that they enjoy break and lunch times.

The Student Leadership policy will be reviewed every two years as a minimum.