

# Student Leadership Policy



**Love, Learn and Shine Together with Jesus**

Date: January 2026

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Approved by: Headteacher and Governing Body

Policy Lead: Key Stage Leaders

Named Leads:

School Council Lead: Mr Holden

Prefects & Head Boy/Girl Lead: Mrs Dunbar

At St Matthew's Catholic Primary School, we believe that every child is created uniquely and with purpose. Student leadership supports all pupils to grow in confidence, responsibility and respect, while developing the skills needed to contribute positively to school life and the wider community.

Student leadership is rooted in our school values, where pupils are encouraged to live out the principles of kindness, respect, responsibility and pride.

## Policy Statement

St Matthew's Catholic Primary School is committed to providing meaningful opportunities for pupils to take on leadership roles and responsibilities that support whole-school improvement and pupil voice.

Student leadership is an important part of pupils' personal development, citizenship education and preparation for future education and life beyond primary school.

We aim to ensure that student leadership opportunities are:

- purposeful and well-organised
- appropriate for pupils' age and stage
- inclusive and accessible
- supported through clear expectations and adult role models
- reviewed regularly to ensure impact and consistency

## Aims of Student Leadership

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

- play an active role in upholding the values, routines and standards of the school
- contribute to school improvement and decision-making through pupil voice
- develop confidence, independence and communication skills
- become positive role models for behaviour and conduct
- learn responsibility, teamwork and commitment
- contribute to a safe, calm and respectful learning environment
- represent the school positively within the local community

## Structure of Student Leadership Roles

To ensure leadership roles are appropriate for each age group, student leadership is organised as follows:

### Reception and Key Stage 1

In Reception and KS1, leadership focuses on developing early responsibility and positive behaviours through supported roles.

**Leadership roles include:**

- **Class Monitors** (*managed by class teachers*)
- **Class Councillor** (*representing the class voice*)

- **School Council Representatives** (*led by Mr Holden*)

Children in EYFS/KS1 are supported closely and responsibilities are introduced gradually.

## **Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4)**

In Lower KS2, pupils begin to develop more structured leadership skills, building towards higher levels of responsibility.

**Leadership roles include:**

- **Class Monitors** (*managed by class teachers*)
- **Class Councillor** (*representing the class voice*)
- **School Council Representatives** (*led by Mr Holden*)

Pupils are expected to show growing independence, reliability and pride in their role.

## **Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6)**

In Upper KS2, pupils take on increased responsibilities and are expected to demonstrate maturity and consistent role modelling.

**Leadership roles include:**

- **Class Monitors** (*managed by class teachers*)
- **Class Councillor** (*representing the class voice*)
- **School Council Representatives** (*led by Mr Holden*)

Pupils begin to prepare for whole-school leadership opportunities available in Year 6.

## **Whole-School Leadership Roles (Year 6)**

In Year 6, pupils may be selected for whole-school leadership roles, which require consistently high standards and strong role modelling.

### **Prefects**

Prefects are trusted pupils who support whole-school routines and expectations. Prefects may be given specific responsibilities, for example:

- supporting behaviour expectations and transitions around school
- helping younger pupils during social times
- assisting staff during events, assemblies and school routines
- representing the school positively during visits or events

**Prefect leadership is led by Mrs Dunbar.**

## **5.2 Head Boy and Head Girl / Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl**

The Head Boy and Head Girl team represent the highest pupil leadership roles in the school and are expected to model excellent conduct at all times.

Their responsibilities may include:

- welcoming visitors and supporting tours
- supporting whole-school events and assemblies
- acting as ambassadors for St Matthew's

**This leadership team is led by Mrs Dunbar.**

## **Roles, Responsibilities and Adult Support**

All student leaders will be:

- given a clear description of responsibilities and expectations
- supported through routines and guidance from staff
- guided by positive adult role models

For whole-school roles (e.g. Prefects), a named member of staff will act as a **role model and mentor**, supporting pupils to:

- understand what the role involves
- practise responsibilities appropriately
- develop confidence and professionalism
- reflect on how their role impacts others

## **Selection and Allocation of Roles**

Student leadership roles may be allocated in different ways depending on the responsibility:

- **Class Monitors** are selected and managed by **class teachers**
- **Class Councillors** may be selected through pupil voice systems or teacher oversight
- **School Council representatives** are supported and coordinated through the School Council Lead (**Mr Holden**)
- **Prefects** and the **Head Boy/Girl team** are selected through a structured process led by **Mrs Dunbar**, based on suitability and sustained conduct

The school aims to ensure leadership opportunities are fair, inclusive and accessible wherever possible.

## **Expectations of Student Leaders**

Student leaders are expected to fulfil their role to a high standard. Pupils selected for leadership positions must demonstrate:

- consistently good behaviour and conduct
- respect towards staff and pupils
- strong effort and attitude to learning
- reliability, honesty and responsibility
- pride in uniform and presentation
- positive influence on others
- commitment to helping improve school life

Student leaders should support school expectations and be ambassadors of our values.

# Student Leadership as a Privilege

All student leadership roles are a **privilege**, not an entitlement.

Pupils must continue to earn this privilege through:

- good behaviour
- responsibility
- respect
- effort and commitment

Where expectations are not met, pupils will be supported and reminded of required standards. However, leadership roles may be reviewed and, if necessary, removed to maintain the integrity, purpose and respect of student leadership within the school.

This will always be managed sensitively and fairly, with the best interests of pupils and the wider school community in mind.

## Monitoring, Review and Impact

Student leadership will be monitored through:

- regular check-ins with leads (Mr Holden / Mrs Dunbar)
- staff feedback on the effectiveness of roles
- pupil voice discussions
- observation of conduct and leadership during school routines

Leaders may be reviewed half-termly to ensure roles remain purposeful and standards remain high.

## Recognition and Celebration

Student leaders will be recognised through:

- badges / certificates (where appropriate)
- praise and recognition from staff
- celebration in assembly and school communication

Recognition may also include additional responsibilities or opportunities to contribute to school improvement projects.