

Student Voice Policy

“Learning to Serve”



What is Student Voice?

Student Voice describes the many ways in which students at St John's Lutheran School can have the opportunity to actively participate in school decisions that will shape their experience at school and the experience of their peers. Student Voice allows students to be drivers of action and change in their school community.

St John's Lutheran School is a place of learning that encourages and supports students, informed and sustained by the Word of God, to develop their God-given talents so that they may shape and enrich their world.

The Importance of Student Voice

The Australian Census 2015 states that 23% of the Australian population is under the age of 19 and it is these young people who will become the leaders of tomorrow. By nurturing Student Voice we provide opportunities for students to develop Learner Profile Attributes encouraging them to be agents of change.

Benefits of Student Voice Groups

Student involvement in Student Voice groups within our school provides many benefits to the individual as well as the school and greater community. These can include:

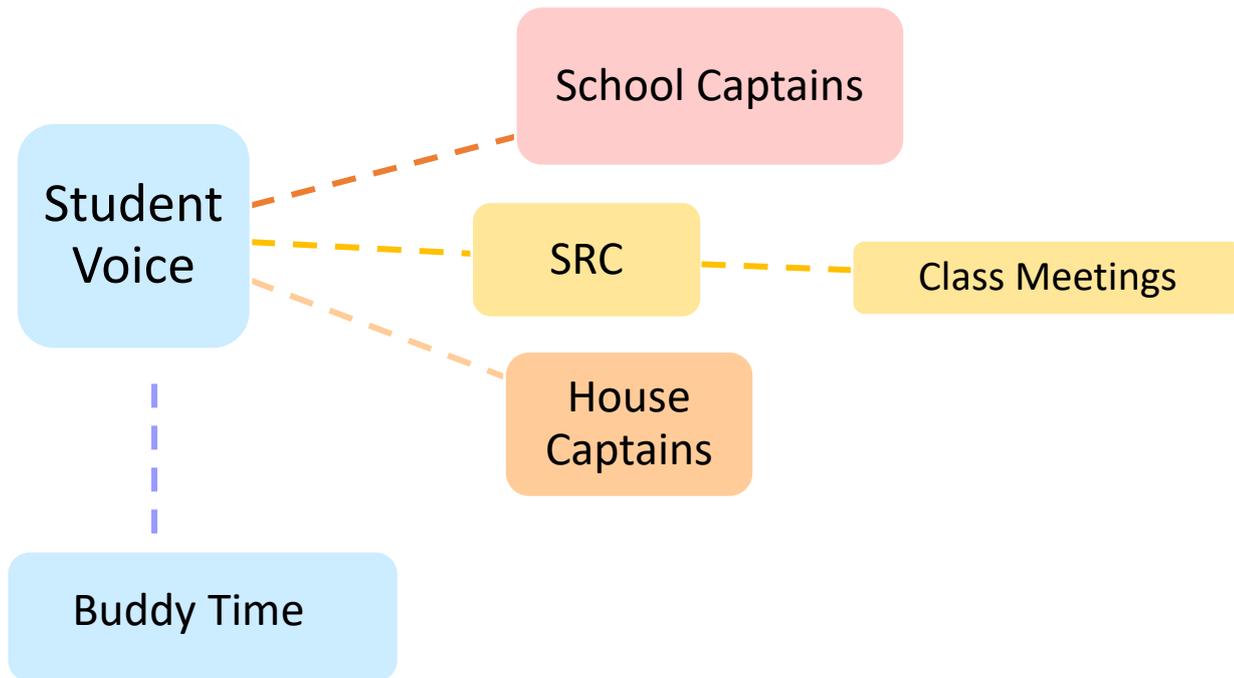
Student Benefits

- Communication – public speaking, writing and listening
- Leadership qualities – mentoring, motivating others, recruiting and promoting, problem solving
- Team work – working within a team and individually, roles and responsibilities
- Decision making
- Exposure to new ideas, skills and ways of thinking as well as raising awareness and understanding which will be very useful in the classroom and later on in life
- Relationship development – students will form new, meaningful friendships with other students, staff and mentors by being part of a Student Voice group. These students can become positive role models, which may in turn encourage other students to take action and view school life more positively
- Identity formation – students begin to form identities of self when they belong to a group where skills are developed and knowledge is built upon.

School and Community Benefits

- Young people can give insight into school issues and can provide new and creative ideas for dealing with these
- The school and community benefit from the skills developed by students to take action through their school years, in the local community and into their careers
- Our society gains responsible young people well equipped to deal with community challenges.

Structure of Student Voice at St John's Lutheran School



School Captains

The role of the School Captain is to model the Learner Profile through:

- Chairing and minuting SRC meetings
- Facilitating SRC meetings and regularly meeting with the Principal
- Attending other school meetings when invited
- Representing the school at community events, for example Dawn Services
- Welcoming and thanking parents and visitors
- Speaking at school events
- Being role models for other students
- Preparing and delivering a speech to the school community at the End of Year Service.
- Leading of school Assemblies

Two School Captains are chosen in Term Four for the following year. All senior students are asked to prepare a short speech to deliver to the school community later the same day explaining how they will apply the attributes of the Learner Profile and skills they could bring to the role. Staff and students from Year Three onwards are given the opportunity to vote by secret ballot for their choice of School Captains. The Principal and another staff member will count the votes and the two students polling the most votes will be announced at the End of Year Service. The Principal has the right to veto the decision of the students.

Student Representative Council (SRC)

Each class elects two SRC members for a semester. The duties of a class SRC member are to liaise between the SRC and students, attend all SRC meetings, present class ideas, concerns and suggestions to SRC meetings and to be actively involved in running regular class meetings.

At the beginning of each semester students in each class will deliver a short speech explaining how they will apply the Attributes of the Learner Profile and skills they could bring to the role.

Elections are held each semester with previous SRC members being ineligible for re-election until all members of that year level have been given the opportunity to hold a membership position.

- SRC members will receive a badge from the school and are expected to be a role model for other students
- SRC meetings are held three times a term with a staff member overseeing the meetings
- With initial guidance the School Captains will alternate the responsibility of chairperson and minute taker
- The chairperson recaps the minutes of the previous meeting and asks for any action that has taken place since the last meeting
- The chairperson asks for new business from class meetings and facilitates discussion on matters raised
- Discussion items resulting from new business from class meetings are distributed to classes to be discussed at class meetings and class representatives will report the class response to the teacher responsible for SRC
- School Captains will meet with the Principal in the same week as the SRC meeting to share student feedback for discussion
- School Captains will share decisions made with the student body at the next appropriate time
- Action slips and SRC meeting minutes are compiled by the teacher responsible for SRC and given to classroom teachers before their class meeting the following day
- Senior students will be involved in the leading of Chapels and Assemblies

Class Meetings

- Before classes have their first class meeting for the year they establish an essential agreement covering meeting expectations and procedures which will be displayed in the classroom
- Classes hold meetings when needed, with a minimum of three meetings held immediately after the SRC has met
- Classes run meetings in a way suitable for their year levels
- Matters that a class chooses to take further action on are brought to the SRC by the class representatives at the next meeting.

House Captains

House captains are elected in Term One. Two captains and two vice-captains are elected for each house (Emmaus and Thiele) from the senior students. The role of the house captains is to:

- Help the Sports Coordinator prepare for Sports Day and Swimming Carnival
- Help the Sports Coordinator set up and pack up equipment
- Help the Sports Coordinator run events
- Act as a role model for other students in line with the Learner Profile in regard to sportsmanlike behaviour and follow the SunSmart and Uniform Policies
- Participate in the student/staff/parent race (if house captains are not able to do so, they will need to organise someone to take their place before the day)
- Ensure there is a competitor from their house in each event
- Ensure that the nominated competitor is ready to participate in his/her event/s
- Encourage team members in a supportive way
- Be sun safe.

Peer Support

- Each student from the Senior Class cohort buddy-up with a Junior Primary student during the Foundation transition.
- Peer Support teams meet 3 times a term to complete appropriate and relevant activities together with the aim-
 - to develop and maintain positive and strong relationships between the senior students and the Foundation students.
 - to allow Foundation students the opportunity to connect with the senior students and to feel safe and secure in a 'new' environment.
 - to support and assist Foundation students with key elements in their learning.
 - to allow senior students to further develop their leadership capacity.

References

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Student Voice and Student Leadership at Blackwood Primary School

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