MEREDITH
Primary School

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Junior School Council

PURPOSE

At Meredith Primary School, we believe that students should have the opportunity to express their opinions and ideas and actively participate in the decision-making processes of their classes and our school. The purpose of this policy is to explain how the school actively supports student voice through the implementation of the Junior School Council.

Student representatives who form the Junior School Council voice the concerns of the student body and make suggestions to improve our school. Participation in Junior School Council allows students to take on leadership roles to develop their leadership skills and to also act as effective role models for their peers. When students are actively involved in decision-making, they have an enhanced sense of commitment to the school and wider community.

SCOPE

The Junior School Council Coordinator is responsible for the implementation of the school's Junior School Council. The role of the Junior School Council is to:

- Provide a forum to gather and express students' opinions, suggestions and recommendations.
- Give students practical experiences in meeting procedures and democratic decision-making.
- Provide opportunities for students to develop their skills in leadership and organisation.
- Foster a sense of community and pride in our school amongst students of all grades.
- Develop citizenship and raise student awareness of local and global issues.

POLICY

- All classes will provide opportunities for discussion and student involvement in decision-making.
- A Junior School Council will be formed annually.
- Each class will elect two representatives to participate in Junior School Council.
- A student may only be elected once as a Junior School Council representative in a three year period.
- Elected members of the Junior School Council will be recognised in the newsletter and will receive basic meeting procedures and protocols.
- The Junior School Council will meet regularly.
- A staff member will attend each meeting in a mentoring capacity.
- It is the responsibility of the Junior School Council to organise and conduct a range of student-initiated events, represent the views and needs of the student population on student matters and contribute to the smooth functioning of the school.

- Junior School Council will plan and organise involvement in appropriate appeals and events to help and support those in need. This may be in the form of financial assistance or collecting materials and resources for distribution to relevant charities.
- Minutes of the Junior School Council will be distributed to representatives after each meeting.
- Reports of meetings will be given to the Principal and School Council.
- Junior School Council representatives will regularly report decisions back to their classes and elicit their peers' opinions and ideas about issues to be discussed at future Junior School Council meetings.
- Opportunities will be provided for representatives of the Junior School Council to practise their leadership skills in a variety of ways.
- Junior School Council recommendations involving finance or school improvement will be subject to approval by the Principal and the School Council.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	February 2025
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	1/2/2026