

Morawa District High School



An Independent Public School

Student Leadership Strategy 2022

At Morawa District High School, we are committed to continual improvement.

Our school vision is to 'Grow Good People' and students are at the heart of our School. As part of our 2022-2024 Business Plan we have committed to amplifying **student voice** and **creating opportunities for student agency** through **Student Leadership Strategy development with staff and students**. We aim to refine role clarity and determine responsibilities for development of student leaders (Student Council, House Captains, Year 6, Senior School) in leadership, involving peer support programs, student activities, including during break times and involvement in the strategic direction of the school, with a particular focus on our "Caring For Country" Sustainability Plan.

We want to provide ongoing opportunities for our students to be heard, to be included in school-wide decision-making, to be supported to demonstrate initiative, and lead their peers by positive example. If children are at the heart of our school, it is essential that student consultation takes place, that we are mindful of what they think, feel and aspire to achieve from their education and that is reflected in the practices of their school.

The targets in our Student Leadership Plan will include:

- Increased opportunities for student agency in shaping, developing and reviewing school programs, policy and direction; and
- A commitment to strategic planning that nurtures student resilience, independence and citizenship.

At Morawa District High School, examples of student leadership are evident everywhere. They are not confined to the peer-elected officials with enhanced roles and responsibilities who wear badges and lead explicitly. Our student leadership includes our traditional House Captains and the newly created Performing Arts Captain positions, who will coordinate house sports and performing arts activities. Also included are those students selected to undertake responsibilities within classrooms that benefit their peers and teachers each week. Experiences such as our 'Year 6 Morawa Challenge' Project will develop creative, collaborative and communication skills key to student leadership and to improving the quality of life of the members of our school and community.

We must never underestimate what our students are capable of if we believe in, trust, support and encourage them. In "Growing Good People", we embrace our responsibility to nurture the unique skills and capabilities of all students to achieve their leadership potential, to do what is right, and to be positive examples to the community. In devising the Morawa District High School Student Leadership Policy and Guidelines, we seek to articulate the behaviours, qualities, roles and responsibilities and corresponding supports that will be put in place to ensure success. We each have a role, from myself and the school administration team, our dedicated student leadership team coordinators, students and parents /caregivers.

Our goal is to create opportunities for students to lead with us “from beside.” When you’re in front of or behind someone, or a group, it’s difficult to communicate ideas and hear feedback. Being in front or behind also tends to signify that the power lies with the person who is not a part of the group. Students look to their teachers and mentors for leadership, but we need to look to them for input and insight. We need to let them know that we are all equally vested in mutual success – the success of Morawa District High School and the success of each individual that supports the School’s success.

Developing a student leadership strategy provides clarity and opportunity for students, staff and the parent community. Students will demonstrate and develop increased leadership skills, participate pro-actively and make a positive impact on their school community and the wellbeing of their peers. Taking on a leadership role is a great opportunity to build real-world, transferable skills such as humility, adaptability, vision, and constant engagement. At Morawa District High School strategies will be provided for students to develop the following participation and leadership skills:

- Active and reflective listening
- Critical and creative thinking
- Collaborative interaction
- Mediation and dispute resolution
- Problem solving and decision making
- Goal setting and action planning

Characteristics of a Leader

The main characteristics of a leader are responsibility, confidence, respecting others and organisation.

Responsibility: Being responsible means being accountable for one's actions. It involves making decisions and taking action, rather than waiting to be told what to do. Leadership also involves realistic responsibility, as there are many matters that even as school leaders are out of your control.

Confidence: A leader must have confidence, so you can speak in public and represent our school in the community. Confidence is a behaviour as well as a feeling. When you act in a more confident way you will begin to feel it.

Respecting Others: A vital aspect of being a school leader is to respect others. It is important to listen to what peers have to say and give them positive feedback on their ideas. In order to gain respect, you must demonstrate and give it out first.

Organisation: When students become a leader they need to be ready to take on extra responsibilities. They will be relied upon to complete tasks in a timely manner. This will be easier if they are organised. They need to demonstrate our Positive Behaviour Support Expectations of Respect and Excellence at all times.

The Role of a Year Coordinator

A Year Coordinator guides student leaders in successfully planning and resourcing events, making decisions and representing their peers. This role is essential to developing students’ leadership skills and supporting their efforts to serve their school.

Morawa District High School Student Councillor/Leader

Roles and Responsibilities

The role of the Student Council is to organise, coordinate and participate. Participation in the following activities requires students to take on a leadership role within the school and demonstrate exemplary behaviour which is modelled to the rest of the student population.

Student Councillor

- Represent the school at formal functions
- Prepare and present the Student Leadership Report at Assemblies
- Coordinating and running school assemblies including ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies
- Manage the school sport's shed during recess and lunch (review)
- Run morning fitness [Primary]
- Give announcements to the school over the school's PA system
- Take on Leadership roles during school activities such as the Open Night, School Ball and Fundraising days
- Other leadership roles and representative duties as required
- Devise, prepare, perform and present roleplays, campaigns and initiatives to remind and support students, staff and community of school expectations – Respect, Responsibility, Achievement
- **Liaise between students, staff, and community** - Promoting the school and representing the school population through community events such as Open Night, Carnivals, community ANZAC ceremonies and other events as appropriate
- Complete roles that support the school in its daily operations (placing up flags, etc.)
- Take on a Peer Mediation role, which requires students to be present in the Early Childhood area at play times to develop positive relationships, facilitate and use conflict and resolution strategies where required, and set up minor games for students to participate in
- Support staff in the running of the Breakfast Club (serve students breakfast, washing up of dishes and general maintenance of activity area) review
- Conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times and online
- Assist in fundraising events for the school and identified charities and causes eg.
 - Crazy Hair Day
 - Year 6 Graduation Fundraising
 - Jeans 4 Genes
 - Camps
 - RUOK Day

Morawa District High School Student Council

Membership

The Student Council consists of:

- Head Students (2) elected from Years 11/12
 - Vice Head Students (2) elected from Years 11/12
 - Council members (14) elected from Years 4-10
 - Year coordinators (nominated teacher)
 - Principal and/or Deputy (1)
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- The Principal and/or Deputy may attend Student Council meetings and events at his/her own discretion, whereupon he/she will have the right to discuss and vote on any Student Council business.
 - The Year Coordinator will be a member of staff and be elected by the Principal in subsequent years following an Expression of Interest process.

Our Student Leadership Team

All members of our Student Leadership Team are expected to:

- Uphold school values
- Be a role model for other students
- Maintain academic progress and complete any missed work in their own time
- Promote school rules and uniform by example
- Display respect for the school and its equipment
- Exhibit acceptable behaviour in the playground
- Demonstrate desired habits and strive for excellence in the classroom
- Readily accept duties and roles during play times and before school
- Assist any child, parent or staff member in need
- Work cooperatively as a team member
- Enjoy serving others and helping others succeed; it's a service you are completing and not a task that should need rewarding
- Be proactive in sharing your ideas and solutions during student leadership team meetings

Election Process

Being elected into a role of Student Leader, House or Performing Arts Captain is a privilege and honour. The following guidelines are used to elect students to the above positions.

The Student Council term of office will extend from January to December.

Elections for Student Council Members members will occur in November and are carried out in the order below.

Elections for the School Councillors and Head Students and Vice Head Students will be selected through an election campaign. The applicants must submit an expression of interest to the Year Coordinator explaining why they should be elected for the relevant position. The top expressions of interest for each year level will be identified and notified of their authorisation to run in the Student Council Elections/campaign. The students (once identified by the Year Coordinators) will then be required to give a short speech to the school. A secret school ballot will then be conducted to elect the positions.

Morawa District High School House and Performing Arts Captains

- Host 'Respect Assemblies' and be a part of the running of them i.e. presenting notifications and reminders, calling out winners from class raffles and presenting mini awards where applicable
- Be an active presence in relevant clubs
- Take on the role of equipment monitor
- Count up House Points/MO Bucks
- Devise chants and develop faction pride and sportsmanship
- Leadership of carnivals and events to motivate students and encourage sportsmanship and participation
- Taking on Peer Mediation role, which requires students to be present in all play areas at recess and lunch time
- Develop positive relationships, facilitate and use conflict and resolution strategies where required, and set up minor games for students to participate in
- Help and organise the set-up of relevant activities
- Conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times and online

Morawa District High School House Captains Membership

- Elections for the House and Performing Arts Captains will be selected through an election campaign. The applicants must submit an expression of interest to the Year Coordinator/Sports Coordinator/Music Coordinator explaining why they should be elected for the relevant position. The top expressions of interest for each year level will be identified and notified of their authorisation to run in the House Captain Elections/campaign. The students (once identified by the Year Coordinators) will then be required to give a short speech to the school. A secret school ballot will then be conducted to elect the positions.
- House Captains – Two elected members for each House being Ruby, Sapphire and Emerald are elected for both primary and secondary schools. Two House Captains for the Senior School house of District Diamonds are also elected.
- A total of 14 House Captains are elected.
- Performing Arts Captains - Two elected members, one each from Junior and Senior Band to ensure representation of Primary and Secondary school students.

Loss of Good Standing

Any member of the Student Leadership team may have their role taken off them for a substantial period if they have lost their Good Standing. These decisions are at the discretion of the School Principal.

A Student Councillor or Captain who loses Good Standing can apply for the reinstatement of the badge. This process is determined between the Principal, Deputy Principal and the student. This process involves: -

- An appeal process, where the student can appeal the decision in writing if they feel that the decision to remove their badge was unfair. This appeal must be presented to the Principal within three school days.
- The student must have displayed good behaviour for four weeks. This includes level two behaviours which are tracked through classroom tracking sheets.
- The student will be required to complete an application form and attend an interview with the Principal and Year coordinators to discuss their roles and responsibilities and how they are going to ensure.