

**Rationale:**

At Kerrimuir Primary School the personal growth and development of every student is highly valued. The Junior School Council provides a forum for students to communicate their ideas to teachers, parents and the school community. It enables students to contribute to decisions regarding their social and physical environment.

**Aims:**

- To provide a formal and recognised process to effectively and fairly gather and express students' opinions, suggestions and recommendations regarding school direction and day-to-day decision making.
- To foster a sense of community amongst students from all grades and mutual respect between students and teachers.
- To show initiative and demonstrate good organisational skills.
- Demonstrate positive leadership ability, pride in the school.
- Be active and helpful to all members of the school community.
- To ensure that Child Safe guidelines are met at all times.

**Implementation:**

- Students from each Grade 1-4 will be nominated for Junior School Councillor by their peers in a classroom election. Prep students will be invited to join the Junior School Council in Term 3.
- Students may only be elected as a Junior School Councillor once in the junior school and once in the senior school.
- Two students from each grade will be selected as a Junior School Councillor.
- Students nominated will be requested to prepare a speech stating why he/she should be Junior School Councillor, outlining reasons for qualification and speeches will be performed in front of their own grade. Students will vote in the form of a secret ballot.
- The Student Leader Coordinator will disseminate information to classroom teachers and coordinate the timeline for the voting process. In Grade 5/6, the timeline for this process will occur in conjunction with the election of the Student Leaders.
- Students will be given information about the Junior School Council Policy prior to the commencement of the process and be provided with a copy of the policy upon request.
- Classroom teachers will discuss with their students the need to choose the best person for the position and that students nominated must not try to manipulate votes
- Junior School Councillors may be removed from office by order of the Principal or Assistant Principal if they fail to abide by the Student Code of Conduct.
- Elected members will receive badges that will be presented at assembly, will be recognised in the newsletter, and will receive directions as to their role and basic meeting procedures and protocols. Parents will be invited to attend the assembly to watch the presentation of badges.
- The opinions expressed by Junior School Council will be carefully considered by the principal, and will receive appropriate feedback.
- Junior School Council will have available a regular section in the newsletter to report to the community.
- Meetings will be held monthly and chaired by the three Grade 5/6 Junior School Councillors and supervised by the teachers in charge of Junior School Council.
- It is the responsibility of the Junior School Council to organize and run a range of student initiated events, represent the views and needs of the student population

Date: September 2016

Ratified: October 2016

Review: September 2019

# Junior School Council Policy

on student matters and contribute to the smooth running of the school by debating and organizing the fair use of shared resources.

- Teachers involved in Junior School Council must ensure that they are never alone with any student at any time.

**Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle, or at any time that DEECD policy changes influence reporting practices in schools.