



Home of Irresistible Learning

Dubai English Speaking School

# Student Leadership Policy





## **Introduction:**

Leadership is an integral part of lifelong learning and at DESS we endeavour to provide as many opportunities as possible for our children to develop skills and experience leadership in a variety of contexts. We believe that an active student leadership body is fundamental to the development of the school and we encourage as many of our children as possible to become involved. We emphasise the importance of student voice, so that all children have their opinions and views heard and can see how their input can help shape the development of the school.

Through participation in the school Student Leadership Programme, as well as involvement in the school community, children learn about the skills required for effective leadership. They are encouraged to apply for and take on leadership positions at all levels within the school.

## **Aims & Objectives:**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all students are supported and encouraged to develop a sense of belonging, responsibility and partnership with the school, by working together to make their school a better place. They are encouraged to demonstrate respect for one another and the environment, to strive for excellence through co-operation with staff and their peers and to have representation in some areas of decision making around the school.

At DESS, student leadership is driven by service to others and is embedded in our school ethos. In line with our school vision, we believe that participation in these roles will help to develop independent and resilient learners who are prepared to face the challenges of tomorrow. We promote active student leadership and encourage students to have their voice heard.

## **Guidelines:**

- Student leadership will be a shared leadership model and will involve many children across the whole school.
- Members of staff will be assigned as Leadership Role Coordinators (see list below), at the end of each academic year in preparation for the following year. These coordinators will oversee and coordinate the various leadership roles within the school.
- Leadership Role Coordinators will devise a clear set of criteria for selection of leaders. They will also outline a detailed description of roles and responsibilities for each position available.
- This information on roles and responsibilities will be made available on the school portal, which will be updated as required.
- The application process for each position will be set by the Leadership Role Coordinators (e.g letter of application, interview, nomination etc.) and this must be approved by SLT.
- All leadership positions will open and close on the same date in Term 1. This date will be finalised by SLT and communicated to parents and children.



- Children and parents will be notified of the roles available, the application process as well as the criteria for each position at the beginning of each academic year.
- Leadership positions of responsibility will be announced at specific assemblies during the first term of each academic year.
- A child should not be re - appointed to the same position in consecutive years. They may however be appointed to an alternative leadership position.
- All staff involved in shortlisting/nominating candidates for specific roles must consult the central Student Leadership record database to ensure that this is adhered to.
- Leadership Coordinators must send their final list of leaders to SLT for approval 1 week prior to announcing the successful candidates. Announcements will not be made prior to this approval being sought.
- No child will have more than one leadership position in a year.
- All whole school ballots will be conducted using an online platform to ensure transparency in the voting process.

**The DESS Student Leadership Programme includes the following Roles:**

- Head Boy & Head Girl
- Deputy Head Boy and Girl
- School Council
- House Leader
- Sports Leader
- Lead Learner
- Rights and Responsibility Ambassador
- Play Leader
- Global Ambassador
- Bus Leader
- Library Apprentice
- Library Expert
- Tech team