



MKPS School Parliament Policy and Guidelines

MKPS School Parliament will replace the existing SRC (Student Representative Council). It will be a great opportunity for our Year 6 students to learn about and experience parliamentary processes as well as building essential qualities like consideration, resilience, independence, co-operation and self-motivation. They will be given opportunities to express their opinions and participate actively in decision making. Students will be encouraged to recognise the need for change and to make active and informed decisions.

Establishment Procedures

In Week 5 Term 4 of each year, Year 5 nominees will participate in a pre-election campaign. In Week 7, each nominee is required to address an assembly of students from Years 1-6, outlining his/her ideas and plans as well as giving some personal background information.

Elections are then held, by secret ballot. All students in Years 2-5 are eligible to vote as well as staff members.

Prime Ministers and Deputy Prime Ministers are the students who attain the highest number of votes. From this point the remainder of the Student Parliament is formed.

During Term 4 Week 9, we will have a Parliament Induction Assembly to introduce our Year 6 Leadership team.

Pledge of Office

I willingly accept office in the Mount Kuring-gai Public School Student Parliament.

I promise to be loyal to the Parliament and my school.

I promise to bring to the attention of Parliament all matters of concern of my fellow students.

I promise to carry out my duties to the best of my ability.

My goal is to help make Mount Kuring-gai Public School an outstanding school where every student can be happy and successful.

In the course of my duties I will set a good example for other students to follow.

Expectations of All Members of Parliament

All members of Mount Kuring-gai Public School Student Parliament are expected to maintain a high standard of behaviour and citizenship. This will be demonstrated in their daily relationships and interactions with students and staff alike. In this way they will assist in the development of a school community where individuals feel secure, happy and free to strive towards their full potential.

Additionally, all members of Mount Kuring-gai Public School Student Parliament are expected to consistently display positive leadership skills. These qualities include:

- Responsibility
- Reliability

- Consideration
- Courtesy
- Use of initiative
- Loyalty
- Willingness to be involved in all school activities

Prime Ministers that don't fulfill the outlined expectations, will have their suitability for the position reviewed by the Principal and may lose their position.

Ministers of Parliament and Deputy Prime Ministers who fail to display appropriate behaviour may have their Parliamentary position reviewed by executive staff.

Ministers will report to Parliament each fortnight. Ministers will undertake specific tasks each week.

All Parliamentary decisions / recommendations must have the approval of the Principal before they are implemented. It is the responsibility of the Prime Minister together with the Minister involved to meet with the Principal to discuss Parliamentary decisions / recommendations. The Ministers will then arrange to meet with the staff member responsible for their portfolio.

Each Minister is responsible for organising appointment times with the Principal or other staff members as appropriate.

Members Of Parliament

Members of Parliament for classes (two students per semester) will be voted on in Term 1 of the following year.

The Cabinet

The cabinet will be filled by Year 6 students. Due to the small size of MKPS, the official positions will vary from year to year.

Roles

Prime Minister

- Prepare running sheet for assembly and ensure all classes have handed in their class awards and YCDI merits
- Chair Parliamentary Sessions (Speaker Role)
- Ensure that all members of the cabinet are performing their duties.
- Ensure Parliamentary procedures are followed.
- Give Parliament report at assemblies (alternately with other PM's/Deputy PM's)

Deputy Prime Minister

- Prepare running sheet for assembly and ensure all classes have handed in their class awards and YCDI merits
- Take minutes of Parliament session (Secretary Role – one Deputy only)
- Keep a record of money raised in the School Parliament folder (Treasurer Role – one Deputy only)
- Ensure that all members of the cabinet are performing their duties.
- Deputy Prime Ministers will conduct the voting of new bills at Parliament Sessions.
- Give Parliament report at assemblies (alternately with other PM's/Deputy PM's)

Minister for Justice

- Help students in the playground develop positive friendships and encourage them to play safe, inclusive games.
- If rules or rosters are needed for games (eg. Handball, Soccer), they would be asked to make rulings/rosters and put them in print if needed.

Minister for Sport (all House Captains)

- Encourage an active school by supporting athletic events at the school and also maintaining an organised sports area.
- Be responsible for organizing various competitions at lunch time eg. Hand ball, captain ball, tunnel ball, under/over, etc.
- Ensure all house captains assist with distribution and packing away of sports equipment.

Minister for Communication

- Use a variety of forms of communication to keep the school community informed of activities within the school. This will be through newsletters, the school's website, our school app and signage around the school.
- Inform classes about meeting times for Parliament.
- Help with publicity for school events (eg. posters, announcements at assemblies and to classes).
- Train Year 5 students in operation of hall equipment.

Minister for Technology

- Operate any technology required for weekly or special assemblies (microphones, music, computers).

Minister for Health and Safety

- Report to the school principal any OH&S issues in the playground.
- Ensure the playground is kept tidy and safe.
- Check and assist with canteen lines at lunch and afternoon tea.
- Ensure all children are seated when they are eating.
- Make sure pole protectors are put up and removed daily by House Captains.

Minister for Trade

- Return labelled/lost property to students. Maintain an orderly Lost Property area.

Minister for the Environment

- Encourage the school to become more ecologically friendly.
- Organise emptying of the recycling bins
- Become a member of the MKPS Garden Club.
- Help raise awareness of keeping our school litter free (with Minister for Health and Safety)
- Educate others in environmental matters through posters, short speeches, etc.

Minister for Education

- Assist teachers with special events, eg. Book Week Parade, Book Fair, Harmony Day, Spelling Competitions, etc.
- Collect children's work to be displayed in the school hall once a term.
- Be responsible for the flag.

Minister for Entertainment

- Creating fun ways to raise funds for the School Parliament. They will work with the treasurer on this.
- Ensure that we have fun games for students to play at lunch times, catering for a wide range of interests.

Minister for Creative Arts

- Assist teachers in Creative Arts showcases.
- Assist the Minister for Education in placing student artworks in the school hall.

Minister for Information and Research

- Assist with maintenance of library.
- Assist in promoting the Premier's Reading Challenge across the school.
- Work with the Minister/s for Entertainment to decide on which charity organisations we will support when fundraising.

Parliamentary Guidelines

We will have 1 parliament session per fortnight.

Bills can be initiated by any student in the school and are read out by ministers.

Bills are presented at Parliament, discussed and voted on.

Bills are presented to the Senate (the teaching staff) at Monday morning meetings.

The Senate (staff) will either pass, reject or amend bills.

Bills that are passed then proceed to the Governor General (Principal).

Rejected or amended bills are returned to the Ministry.

Students from classes 1-5 will be addressed as "The honourable member for ..(Stage 1, eg)

Acknowledgements to Melville Public School, Bodalla Public School, Holgate Public School and Berowra Public School