



## Renmark West Primary School

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### STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

The role of SRC members is to promote the views of students and to encourage students to become actively involved in their school. Being an SRC member is an important and responsible role in the school. It is an opportunity for leadership and teaches skills that allow the students to become competent in leadership. Students are able to have a say in what is important to them at school, what is working well, what needs improvement and what we could change. The SRC also provides activities and special events for children to enjoy, as well as sometimes raising money for a nominated charity. Representatives have an opportunity to solve problems, debate, make decisions and put plans into action.

#### Terms of office

Each class is to select two representatives, one male, and one female. They will be in that position for two terms after which another two reps are selected. *A student cannot be an SRC rep. if he/she has been on SRC during the previous year.*

#### Responsibilities

It is important for the **representatives** to understand that it is their **responsibility** to:

- ✓ Attend meetings and come prepared.
- ✓ Listen to others and take the opportunity to have their say.
- ✓ Bring issues from the class to the SRC meeting when necessary.
- ✓ Report back to class and let others know what has happened.
- ✓ Follow through with action plans as decided by the SRC, staff or school committees.
- ✓ Represent our school appropriately.

It is the **responsibility of teachers** to support the SRC and the reps by:

- ✓ Allowing class time each week for the reps to report back and helping them with this if needed. Two copies of the minutes of each meeting will be put in the class teachers' pigeon holes after the meeting.
- ✓ Following through with issues/requests brought to the class from the SRC.
- ✓ Providing opportunities for the class to discuss issues (class and school) either via a formal class meeting, circle time or during a "teachable moment."
- ✓ Using the proforma "Bringing Issues to the SRC" when needed.

The SRC meets with the School Counsellor once a week on Thursdays 2:00pm – 2:40pm in a room convenient to staff.

#### Selection of Representatives

The most successful SRC will have members who really want to represent student ideas and opinions and who are prepared to work to improve student participation in all areas of the school. Selection is to be done formally in an inclusive manner with all students encouraged to nominate. Students nominate themselves or are nominated by others. It is important to let students know that the role as a leader in the school brings with it certain

expectations including behavioural as well as participatory. This means that selection of friends may not necessarily be the best option for the class representatives.

Reception students can be involved but will need to be selected by the class teacher using professional judgement as to the 'readiness' of the student to attend meetings. Deputy Representatives may be the second highest vote getters or may be chosen by the teacher as needed on the day of the meeting (the class and the teacher can decide which option to use).

Ideas before the election takes place:

- Compile information sheets on candidates, including photos and lists of their school based interests, which can be displayed and distributed.
- Former SRC students talking to students.

Representatives may be elected in the following ways:

- Students asked to present a 1-2 minute speech in front of their class on why they want to be a student representative, what they can bring to the SRC and ideas that they would like to implement. A secret ballot takes place and the votes are counted by the teacher.
- Students are asked to complete a job and person specification which includes addressing specific criteria and could include referees e.g. parents, teachers.
- A small panel of students to look at all the nomination forms, narrow them down after interviewing them and then the class could hold a secret ballot.

Upon completion of the election the names of the representatives should be sent to the School Counsellor. Parents of SRC members will be informed by letter of their success and will be invited to an assembly when the reps will receive their badges. A special guest will be invited to assist with the presentation.