



Junior Action Group (JAG) Policy

Purpose

The Junior Action Group (JAG) consists of students elected by their peers to represent the student body. JAG is designed as a more formal opportunity for student voice, agency and leadership at Hughesdale Primary School.

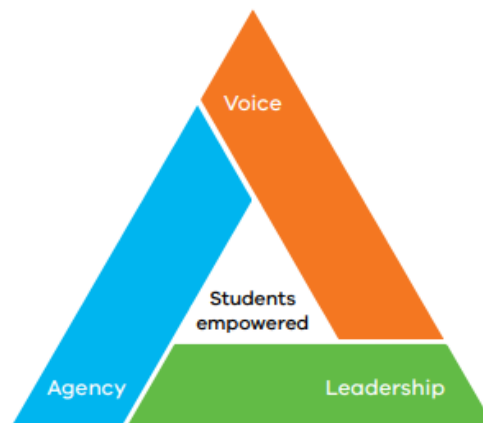


Figure 1: Voice, agency and leadership empower students

Student voice is not simply about giving students the opportunity to communicate ideas and opinions; it is about students having the power to influence change. Authentic student voice provides opportunities for students to collaborate and make decisions with adults around what and how they learn and how their learning is assessed. This is known to lead to improved educational outcomes.

Student agency refers to the level of autonomy and power that a student experiences in the learning environment. Student voice and agency are intrinsically linked. Agency gives students the power to direct and take responsibility for their learning, creating independent and self-regulating learners. Student leadership is not confined to a small group of individuals, as leadership potential is inherent within all learners.

Student leadership includes listening to and being able to clarify the issues of the students they represent and advocating on their behalf. Student leaders have an increased sense of responsibility to help others and to model leadership principles and values. Trust, autonomy and relationships are enhanced through the development of leadership qualities, providing students with the opportunity to have a formal voice within the school whilst developing leadership skills.

- Definitions as developed by the Department of Education Victoria - [Amplify](#)

JAG provides opportunities for students to explore and develop their skills as they link to our school's values within a varied framework. The program particularly explores **teamwork**.

Guidelines

- The JAG program involves students from years 1 to 6.
- There will be two representatives elected (by their class peers) from each class as members of JAG. The result of the election will be decided by the classroom teacher with the following considerations:
 - the results of the ballot
 - which students have previously been JAG members
 - the teacher's knowledge of students, their interests, and abilities.
- Tenure will be for 12 months.
- JAG members will report back to their class following each JAG meeting.
- JAG members will prepare a monthly report for presentation to the School Council by the Principal. This report can take the form of a video, a recording, or a written document.
- JAG members will represent the student community and be examples of our school values. Where members commit serious breaches in conduct, they may forfeit their position as a JAG member, at the discretion of the Principal.
- The JAG team will implement, organise and oversee a maximum of four fundraising events each year (one per term), covering:
 - an external charity (e.g., Bandana Day)
 - an internal school initiative
 - our Jump Rope for Heart program or a second internal school initiative
 - State Schools' Relief (e.g., Free Dress Day).
- JAG members will:
 - actively contribute to discussions
 - represent the student community
 - provide a communication channel between students, teachers and the community
 - provide input into issues that directly affect students
 - encourage student feedback.

Implementation

- Each year two teachers will lead the JAG team as part of their identified roles and responsibilities.
- JAG will meet on a fortnightly basis (with occasional weekly meetings).
- Attendance at meetings should be consistent. If a student repeatedly misses JAG meetings (and is at school), they may forfeit their position as class representative (at the discretion of the classroom teacher and Principal). Their class will elect a replacement JAG member.
- The Level 5 and 6 JAG members will be responsible (with the support of teachers) for the preparation of a meeting agenda. They will also rotate the role of keeping meeting minutes.
- JAG members will be identifiable by a JAG badge, which will be presented at assembly during Term One.
- JAG Teacher Leaders will report back regularly at staff meetings to share and respond to student views and actions.
- On School Photo Day the JAG members will get their photo taken together.

Timeline

Week 2: staff are briefed about the voting process

Week 2: students elect JAG representatives

Week 3: First JAG meeting is held

Term 1: JAG badges are presented at a whole-school assembly

SELECTION PROCESS

All teachers should be familiar with this policy, prior to conducting JAG representative elections.

- After the role of a JAG member has been explained to the class by the teacher, students will be invited to verbally nominate themselves as candidates.
- Teachers will encourage students who have not been JAG members previously to nominate themselves for selection, as appropriate.
- The list of candidates will then be displayed for the class to view.
- The candidates will be given the opportunity to explain why they would make an effective JAG member.
- A secret ballot will then be conducted with the guidance of the classroom teacher.
- The classroom teacher will decide on the two JAG members ensuring they consider the following factors:
 - the results of the ballot
 - which students have previously been JAG members
 - their own teacher judgement
- The results are then announced to the Level 1 to 6 classes and broadcast to the wider school community.
- In the case of a JAG member being absent on the day of a meeting, the classroom teacher will nominate another student to attend in the JAG member's place.
- JAG members must be prepared to attend fortnightly meetings. They will also be required to assist at JAG-organised fundraisers.
- Classroom teachers will provide the results of this ballot to both the JAG and Engagement and Wellbeing Leaders.

Communication

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- available publicly on our school's website
- included in induction processes for relevant parties
- made available upon request to the front office.

Related policies and resources

[School Policies](#)

- Student Leadership Policy
- Fundraising Policy

Policy review and approval

Policy last reviewed	Feb 2024
Approved by	Principal: Dean Napier
Next scheduled review date	Feb 2025