

BUDDY POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to:

- ensure Prep students experience a smooth transition and a positive start to formal education
- provide Year 5 students with the opportunity to develop their mentoring skills in line with their future leadership roles
- encourage cross age links between the junior and senior school
- broaden the social network of students
- provide the students with opportunities to develop a whole school connectedness with others within the school.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- Pre-school students and Year 4 students (in the year leading up to student's commencing school)
- Prep and Year 5 students
- Year 1 and Year 6 students.

POLICY

A designated Pre-school/Year 4 Buddy coordinator is appointed, from a member of staff in the Year 4 area, at the beginning of each year.

Prep teachers liaise with local pre-school teacher regarding special needs and personalities of the students prior to the allocation of buddies.

Prep and Year 5 teachers work together to coordinate the buddy program, in Term 4, prior to the end of the year.

In November, the Prep teachers, in consultation with the Pre-school/Year 4 teachers will begin the allocation process.

Pre-school children are matched with current grade 4 students.

Requests from parents or students to pair buddies will not be considered. Every effort will be made to increase each child's support network, by not pairing a Prep child with a buddy they have a pre-existing relationship with.

Students in grades 4 and 5 are tutored by teachers on their responsibilities and expectations in their roles as buddies throughout the year.

Where there are uneven numbers, some students may be allocated an additional buddy.

Buddies are introduced to each other at the annual "Teddy Bears Picnic", on Orientation Day, in early December.

The buddy program commences at the beginning of Term 1 the following year.

During the year, as part of the school's 'Leadership Program', formal situations are provided for students to interact. During first term, Prep's and their buddies are also encouraged to meet outside of class time.

REVIEW CYCLE AND EVALUATION

This policy was last updated on **16th March, 2021** and is scheduled for review in **March, 2024**.