



St Dunstan's
College

Junior School



The House System

Related document to P7 – Co-Curricular

Policy Owner: Deputy Head Pastoral

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Version Control Information

Reason for Amendment	Role	Date	Main Changes
Annual review	Junior School Deputy Head Pastoral	Michaelmas 2024	New template Converted to a Junior School only policy No material amendments necessary

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1. Aims

This policy is applicable to staff, pupils and parents of St Dunstan’s College Junior School (‘the school’), and aims to ensure all parties are clear on the mechanisms through which The House System is delivered and overseen in the school.

2. Legislation

This policy is based on expectations set out by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI), and informed by the following legislation:

- Equality Act 2010

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1 St Dunstan’s Education Group

The governing body has ultimate responsibility for The House System but will delegate day-to-day responsibility to the Head of St Dunstan’s Education Group, who delegates responsibility to the Head of the Junior School, who line manages the Junior School Deputy Head Pastoral.

The governing body has a duty to:

- Review this policy annually
- Ensure the Junior School follows what is articulated within this policy

3.2 The Head of Junior School

The Head of Junior School and the Junior School Deputy Head Pastoral are responsible for the co-curricular provision. This involves:

- Ensuring all staff in the Junior School follow what is articulated within this policy
- Staff receive sufficient training on how to implement the principles outlined in the policy

3.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for co-curricular provision in the school. Staff will:

- Implement the framework outlined in this policy

3.4 Pupils and parents/carers

Pupils are expected to engage fully with the co-curricular opportunities that we provide. Parents/carers are expected to offer support to pupils so that they are able to do so. Where this is not possible, parents /carers should adhere to the parent communications pyramid to see how school staff can support pupils to access the provision available.

4. The House System

4.1 History

- The House System was founded in 1914, with the names originally relating to the neighbourhoods that the boys lived within: Catford, Bellingham, Ladywell, Lewisham, Forest Hill, Hither Green, Sydenham and Brockley.
- The system was founded in order to provide a range of academic, cultural and sporting activities, thereby nurturing team spirit, loyalty and pride. In 1919, following the Great War, the Houses were renamed after eight former pupils who died in the conflict: Bennett, Thomas, Griffiths, Johnson VC, Goosey, Wilson, Lane and Ross.
- In 1988, to improve the level of competition, the number was reduced to four and the Houses were named after the first four Headmasters of the College: Forder (incorporating Bennett & Thomas), Hecker (incorporating Griffiths & Johnson), Stuart (incorporating Goosey & Wilson) and Usherwood (incorporating Lane & Ross).
- In 2023, members of the leadership team undertook extensive consultation with all members of the school community, before making the decision to implement further changes. These were made to ensure the House System reflected the diversity of the school community, whilst continuing to fulfil its aims in a rapidly expanding school. Junior School Houses were named after six trees found on the College's main site: Oak, Elm, Sycamore, Rowan, Willow and Birch.

4.2 Aims

- The House System promotes team spirit and a sense of belonging to the school.
- The House System creates a sense of community that extends beyond year group boundaries. Pupils from different year groups have the chance to work together in pursuit of shared goals.
- The House System promotes pupil leadership, as older pupils have the opportunity to lead and mentor younger pupils.
- The House System gives all pupils experience of competition across a diverse range of activities.

4.3 Organisation

- On joining the Junior School, pupils are allotted to one of the six Junior School Houses.
- All members of teaching staff are allotted to one of the six Houses.
- Each House is led by a staff member Head of House, who is accountable to the Junior School Deputy Head Pastoral.
- House events are organised on a termly calendar and build on the school College values. Every effort is made to bring pupils of different year groups together with others in their House.
- Houses hold regular meetings to organise events, celebrate successes and plan for future endeavours

4.4 Captains

- Two Year 6 House Captains are selected to lead each House. Pupils in Year 6 can nominate themselves to be a captain at the start of the year, and the first House meeting includes presentations by these nominees. House Captains are selected by a democratic vote by the pupils within that House.
- House Captains meet regularly both with their Head of House, and also with their fellow House Captains, to plan and review House events across the year.
- The Head of House is responsible for ensuring that their House Captains are fulfilling their roles in an efficient and effective manner.

4.5 Marketing

Information is publicised widely using all available means to raise the profile of all House activities in the school. This can include screens, noticeboards, displays, the Weekly Update, year group newsletters, the website and school social media feeds.

5. Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed by the Junior School Deputy Head Pastoral annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Education Committee (JS)

6. Links with other policies

This policy links with the P7 – Co-Curricular Policy