



GEMS Winchester School Dubai



WSD Student Leadership Policy

Person Responsible: SLT/ELT

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1. Introduction

At GEMS Winchester School Dubai (WSD), we believe student leadership plays a vital role in shaping a positive and enriching school experience for all. Student leaders act as role models, foster a sense of community, and contribute to the overall wellbeing of the school. This document outlines the definition of student leadership at WSD, details the various leadership roles available, and defines the responsibilities associated with each position.

At WSD, student leadership is demonstrated through initiative, responsibility, and a commitment to serving the school community. Leaders are positive role models who embody the school's values of tolerance, respect, and responsibility, and strive to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for all students.

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2. Student Leaders

At WSD, there are different Student Leader roles. These are:

1. Head Students
2. Prefects
3. Form Representatives
4. Student Council
5. House Captains
6. Sports Captains
7. Eco Warriors (Ambassadors)

What follows is a summary of the role and responsibilities associated with each one.

Head Students

The Head Students are the most senior student leaders at WSD and are chosen from Years 6 and Years 12 to 13. They serve as role models for the entire student body and represent the school at official functions. Responsibilities include:

- Leading by example and upholding the school's values.
- Working collaboratively with the Student Council and administration.
- Motivating and inspiring the student body.
- Delivering speeches and presentations on behalf of the student body.
- Feedback to ELT/SLT as appropriate.

Prefects

Prefects are student leaders in Year 5 and 6 and Year 10 upwards who assist with various school functions and maintain a positive school environment. The student council in Year 5 and 6 perform the duties of Prefects. Responsibilities may include:

- Patrolling areas to ensure safety and adherence to school rules
- Welcoming students to school at the gates
- Assisting teachers and staff with various activities
- Providing guidance and support to younger students
- Acting as positive role models for all students

Form Representatives

Each form class in Years 1-13 will elect a Form Representative who serves as a point of contact between students and teachers. Responsibilities include:

- Representing the class in meetings and discussions with teachers and administration
- Promoting a positive and inclusive classroom environment
- Relaying important information to classmates
- Encouraging participation in school activities
- Completing a uniform check every morning, including lanyards

Student Council

The Student Council is the voice of the student body. It works collaboratively with the administration to address student concerns and propose initiatives to improve the school environment. Council members are elected by the student body from the Form Representatives. Responsibilities include:

- Organising student events and activities, e.g. International Day Stalls
- Representing the student body at school functions and meetings
- Gathering student feedback and presenting to SLT, feeding back to Form Reps.
- Proposing improvements to school policies and procedures

House Captains

House Captains lead their respective houses in school competitions and events and are chosen from Year 7-13. Responsibilities include:

- Promoting school spirit and sportsmanship within their House
- Organising house activities and competitions
- Motivating and encouraging participation from house members

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3. Student Ambassadors

At WSD, there are three possible Student Ambassador roles. These are:

1. Teach Like a Gem Ambassadors
2. Wellbeing Ambassadors
3. Heritage Ambassadors (Secondary only)

What follows is a summary of the role and responsibilities associated with each one.

Teach Like a GEM Ambassadors

These leaders are ambassadors for learning and work collaboratively with teachers to improve the quality of learning & teaching across the school. Responsibilities include:

- Representing the student body on how the school can improve learning & teaching
- Deliver feedback to teachers and leaders about learning and teaching

- Promote great learning in your given year group

Wellbeing Ambassador

These leaders are ambassadors for wellbeing across the school community. Responsibilities include:

- Promote a positive school environment that supports students' mental health & well-being.
- Organising events & activities that raise awareness on well-being topics (stress management, healthy habits).
- Collaborate with school staff (counsellors, teachers) to identify and address student needs.

Heritage Ambassador

These leaders celebrate and promote Emirati and other world cultures and heritage within the school community. Responsibilities include:

- Organising cultural events and activities that showcase Emirati and other cultural traditions
- Acting as a resource for students interested in learning more about Emirati and other cultures
- Fostering a sense of inclusivity and understanding of Emirati and other heritages

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4. Student Champions

At WSD, there are three possible Student Champion roles. These are:

1. Digital Champions
2. Eco Champions
3. Innovation Leads/Champions
4. Read Like a Gem Champions

What follows is a summary of the role and responsibilities associated with each one.

Digital Champions

These leaders promote responsible digital citizenship and online safety awareness among students. Responsibilities include:

- Organising workshops and presentations on topics like cyberbullying, data privacy, and online etiquette
- Maintaining a positive online presence for the school community
- Providing peer support and guidance on safe online practice

Eco Champions

These leaders champion environmental awareness and sustainability initiatives within the school. Responsibilities include:

- Organising recycling and waste reduction programs
- Educating students about environmental issues and sustainable practices
- Leading school efforts to conserve resources and reduce the school's environmental footprint

Read Like a GEM Champions

These leaders champion our literacy and reading for pleasure initiatives within the school. Responsibilities include:

- Promote student engagement with the library and love of reading (programs, events, competitions).
- Oversee student library lessons, ensuring smooth library operations.
- Stay informed about library trends, recommending improvements for service and books to purchase.

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5. Enrichment Champions

At WSD, there are many possible Enrichment Champion leadership roles. These include, but are not limited to the following roles:

- Sports Captains
- MUN Student Leaders
- AI & Innovation Champions
- Finance Club Leaders
- Student Mentors

These additional leadership roles are further opportunities for our students to develop their leadership skills in a range of different contexts.

What follows is a summary of the role and responsibilities associated with some of these positions.

Sports Captains

Sports Captains provide leadership and support for their specific sports team. Responsibilities include:

- Leading team practices and drills.
- Motivating and encouraging teammates.
- Acting as a liaison between players and coaches.
- Promoting sportsmanship and fair play.

MUN Student Leaders

These leaders are responsible for organizing and facilitating Model United Nations (MUN) activities within the school. Responsibilities include:

- Leading research and preparation for MUN conferences.
- Training and coaching student delegates on debate and diplomacy skills.
- Representing WSD at external MUN conferences (may require additional selection process).

AI and Innovation Champions

These leaders explore the potential and ethical considerations of Artificial Intelligence. Responsibilities include:

- Organising discussions and presentations on AI applications and its impact on society

- Participating in AI-related competitions and initiatives
- Encouraging responsible development and use of AI technology

Finance Club Leaders

These leaders organise & lead a student-run finance conference (funding, speakers, logistics). Responsibilities include:

- Develop conference agenda, schedule, activities, & marketing materials.
- Ensure the weekly running of the Fin Hub Enrichment Club.

Student Mentors

These leaders provide academic, social, & personal support to assigned students (goals, guidance). Responsibilities include:

- Connect mentees with relevant school resources & services (well-being advocacy).
- Participate in ongoing mentor training & maintain confidentiality for mentees.

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6. Selection Process, Terms of Office & Expectations

The selection process for each leadership role will vary. Some positions, such as Form Captain, may be elected by the student body within their form class. Others, like Student Council, may involve a school-wide election process. Specific details on the nomination and selection process will be communicated through form notices and how to apply.

Student leadership positions are typically held for a one-year term. Leaders are expected to maintain a high standard of academic performance, demonstrate exemplary behaviour, and fulfil the responsibilities outlined for their specific role. Students who fail to meet these expectations may be subject to removal from their leadership position. Head students will be elected each April and remain in the position for 12 months.

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7. Training & Support

WSD is committed to providing student leaders with the necessary training and support to fulfil their roles effectively. This may include workshops on leadership skills, public speaking, safeguarding training and conflict resolution.

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8. Conclusion

Student leadership is a valuable privilege at WSD. We encourage all students to consider taking on a leadership role and contributing to the continued growth and success of our school community.

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