



GEMS Winchester School Dubai



WSD Student Leadership Policy

Person Responsible: Assistant Heads of Pastoral

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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 school's overall wellbeing. This document defines student leadership at WSD, outlines the available leadership roles, and defines the responsibilities associated with each position.

At WSD, students demonstrate leadership 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. Sports Captains
5. Mini ELT (EYFS)

Below is a summary of each role and its responsibilities.

Head Students

Head Students are the most senior student leaders at WSD and are selected from Years 5 and 6 and Years 12 and 13. They lead the Student Council, serve as role models for the wider student body and represent the school at official functions and events. Their responsibilities include:

- Leading the Student Council and supporting its members to fulfil their roles effectively.
- Chairing Student Council meetings and helping to identify priorities and actions.
- Leading by example and consistently upholding the school's values.
- Working collaboratively with the school's leadership team, staff and Student Council.
- Representing the views and interests of the student body.
- Motivating and inspiring other students to contribute positively to school life.
- Delivering speeches and presentations on behalf of the student body.
- Providing feedback and recommendations to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and Executive Leadership Team (ELT), as appropriate.

Prefects

Prefects are student leaders from Years 1–6 and Year 10 upwards. They represent their year group, communicate the views and ideas raised by Student Form Representatives, and form part of the Student Council. Prefects support the effective running of the school and contribute to a safe, welcoming and positive school environment. Their responsibilities may include:

- Representing the views and interests of students within their year group.
- Gathering feedback from Student Form Representatives and presenting it at Student Council meetings.
- Welcoming students and families to WSD.

- Supporting teachers and staff during school activities and events.
- Helping to promote safety and positive behaviour across the school.
- Providing guidance and support to younger students.
- Acting as positive role models and demonstrating the school's values.

Form Representatives

Each form class from Years 1–13 will elect a Form Representative who acts as the voice of their class and a point of contact between students, teachers and the wider student leadership structure. Form Representatives gather the views, ideas and concerns of their classmates and share this feedback with their Year Group Prefect to be raised at Student Council meetings. Their responsibilities include:

- Representing the views and interests of their class.
- Gathering feedback, suggestions and concerns from classmates.
- Sharing class feedback with the Year Group Prefect for discussion at Student Council meetings.
- Communicating relevant Student Council updates and agreed actions to their class.
- Promoting a positive, respectful and inclusive classroom environment.
- Relaying important information to classmates.
- Encouraging participation in school activities and initiatives.

Sports Captains

Sports Captains are student leaders who support the development of sport across the school. They promote participation, teamwork, sportsmanship and pride while acting as positive role models during lessons, practices, competitions and sporting events. Their responsibilities include:

- Acting as a link between students, teams and coaches.
- Promoting fair play, respect and positive sportsmanship.
- Supporting the organisation and delivery of sports days, competitions and other sporting events.
- Encouraging students to participate in physical activity and represent the school positively.
- Demonstrating commitment, teamwork and exemplary behaviour.

Mini ELT

The Mini Executive Leadership Team (Mini ELT) provides students in the Early Years Foundation Stage with meaningful, age-appropriate leadership opportunities. Members meet monthly with the EYFS Senior Leadership Team to share the views, ideas and experiences of their peers and contribute to the ongoing development of the department.

Through discussions, classroom conversations and practical activities, Mini ELT members share what students enjoy, identify aspects of their learning environment they would like to improve and suggest ways to make their experiences even better. They also help communicate agreed actions and positive changes to other students.

Participation in the Mini ELT supports the development of confidence, responsibility, communication, decision-making and teamwork, while ensuring that the voices of WSD's youngest students are heard and valued.

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3. Student Ambassadors

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

1. Teach Like a Gem Ambassador
2. Read Like a Gem Ambassador
3. Be a GEM Ambassador
4. Wellbeing Ambassador (Secondary only)
5. Heritage Ambassadors
6. Alumni Relations Ambassador (Secondary only)
7. Family First Ambassador
8. AI and Innovation Ambassador
9. Sustainability Ambassador
10. Creative Arts Ambassador (Secondary only)
11. Media Ambassador (Secondary only)

Below is a summary of each role and its responsibilities.

Teach Like a GEM Ambassadors

Teach Like a GEM Ambassadors are student leaders who champion high-quality learning and work collaboratively with students, teachers and school leaders to support the continued improvement of teaching and learning across WSD. Their responsibilities include:

- Representing the student body and gathering students' views about their learning experiences.
- Sharing constructive feedback with teachers and school leaders about teaching and learning.
- Identifying and celebrating examples of effective learning across the school.
- Promoting positive learning behaviours and high expectations within their year group.
- Supporting learning walks, student voice activities and other relevant quality-assurance initiatives.
- Suggesting practical ways to make learning more engaging, inclusive and effective.
- Acting as positive role models who demonstrate the Teach Like a GEM expectations.

Read Like a GEM Ambassadors

Read Like a GEM Ambassadors are student leaders who help shape and strengthen the school's reading culture. They promote literacy, reading for pleasure and meaningful engagement with the school library. Their responsibilities include:

- Inspiring other students to develop a love of reading.
- Promoting engagement with the library, reading programmes and digital reading platforms.
- Supporting reading events, competitions, campaigns and celebrations.
- Recommending books and authors that reflect students' interests and the diversity of the school community.
- Gathering and sharing student feedback about reading and library provision.
- Supporting staff during library lessons and helping students use the library responsibly.
- Helping to ensure that books are treated respectfully and returned to the correct locations.
- Staying informed about reading trends and suggesting improvements to library services and resources.
- Acting as positive reading role models and sharing book recommendations with their peers.

Be A Gem Ambassador (Secondary Only)

Heritage Ambassadors are student leaders who celebrate and promote Emirati heritage alongside the diverse cultures represented within the WSD community. They support students in developing respect, curiosity and appreciation for the traditions, values and identities of others. Their responsibilities include:

- Promoting knowledge and appreciation of Emirati culture, heritage, values and traditions.
- Celebrating the diverse cultures and nationalities represented across the school.
- Supporting the organisation of cultural events, assemblies, exhibitions and national celebrations.
- Sharing information and resources that help students learn about Emirati and other world cultures.
- Encouraging students and families to contribute their experiences, traditions and cultural knowledge.
- Promoting inclusion, mutual respect and understanding across the school community.
- Acting as positive role models who demonstrate pride in the UAE and respect for cultural diversity.

Family First Ambassador (Secondary Only)

Family First Ambassadors are Secondary student leaders who encourage their peers to participate actively in the global GEMS Education initiative, which embeds the core family values of love, care and intergenerational connection into everyday learning and school life. Their responsibilities include:

- Promoting positive and supportive relationships between students, families and the school.
- Developing initiatives that strengthen unity and a sense of belonging across the school community.
- Encouraging students to recognise and value the important role of family.
- Supporting events and activities that bring students, parents, grandparents and other family members together.
- Celebrating the diverse family traditions, experiences and cultures represented at WSD.
- Gathering and sharing student ideas about how the school can strengthen family engagement.
- Acting as positive role models by demonstrating kindness, care, respect and gratitude.

Heritage Ambassador (GEMS Heritage Heroes)

Heritage Ambassadors are student leaders who celebrate and promote Emirati heritage alongside the diverse cultures represented within the WSD community. They support students in developing respect, curiosity and appreciation for the traditions, values and identities of others. Their responsibilities include:

- Promoting knowledge and appreciation of Emirati culture, heritage, values and traditions.
- Celebrating the diverse cultures and nationalities represented across the school.
- Supporting the organisation of cultural events, assemblies, exhibitions and national celebrations.
- Sharing information and resources that help students learn about Emirati and other world cultures.
- Encouraging students and families to contribute their experiences, traditions and cultural knowledge.
- Promoting inclusion, mutual respect and understanding across the school community.
- Acting as positive role models who demonstrate pride in the UAE and respect for cultural diversity.

Sustainability Ambassador (Secondary Only)

Sustainability Ambassadors are student leaders who promote environmental responsibility and encourage the school community to make informed, sustainable choices. Their responsibilities include:

- Raising awareness of local and global sustainability challenges.

- Encouraging sustainable practices, including reducing waste, conserving water and energy, recycling and protecting the environment.
- Developing and supporting student-led sustainability projects and campaigns.
- Gathering student ideas about how WSD can improve its environmental practices.
- Helping to monitor and evaluate the impact of sustainability initiatives.
- Supporting relevant school events, competitions and awareness days.
- Developing partnerships with environmental organisations, local authorities, businesses and community groups.
- Acting as positive role models by demonstrating environmentally responsible behaviours.

Wellbeing Ambassador (Secondary only)

Wellbeing Ambassadors are student leaders who champion positive mental health and wellbeing across the school community. They work collaboratively with students, teachers, counsellors and school leaders to help create a safe, supportive and inclusive environment. Their responsibilities include:

- Promoting positive wellbeing, healthy relationships and a strong sense of belonging.
- Acting as positive role models and encouraging kindness, empathy and respect.
- Helping to organise events, campaigns and activities that raise awareness of wellbeing topics, including healthy habits and managing stress.
- Gathering and sharing student views about wellbeing across the school.
- Signposting students to trusted adults and appropriate sources of support.
- Collaborating with counsellors, teachers and school leaders to identify and respond to emerging student needs.
- Encouraging students to seek help when they are worried about themselves or others.

Wellbeing Ambassadors do not provide counselling or manage safeguarding concerns. Any concern about a student's safety or wellbeing must be shared immediately with a trusted adult or the school's safeguarding team.

Alumni Relations Ambassador (Secondary Only)

Alumni Relations Ambassadors are Secondary student leaders who help strengthen connections between current students, former students and the wider WSD community. Their responsibilities include:

- Leading initiatives that encourage alumni involvement in school and student life.
- Supporting alumni events, reunions, careers activities and networking opportunities.
- Inviting former students to share their experiences, expertise and achievements with current students. Encouraging collaborative projects, mentoring, volunteering and community-service opportunities.
- Celebrating and promoting the achievements of WSD alumni.
- Gathering student ideas about how alumni can support learning, careers education and school development.
- Promoting the values of service, leadership and lifelong engagement with the WSD community.
- Acting as positive representatives of the school when communicating and working with alumni.

AI and Innovation Ambassador (Secondary Only)

AI and Innovation Ambassadors are Secondary student leaders who help bridge the gap between rapidly evolving technologies and the student body. They promote the safe, ethical and purposeful use of artificial intelligence and encourage innovation across the school. Their responsibilities include:

- Raising awareness of the opportunities, limitations and risks associated with artificial intelligence.
- Educating students about the ethical use of AI, including academic integrity, data privacy, intellectual property and algorithmic bias.
- Promoting responsible use of AI in accordance with school policies and UAE regulations.
- Inspiring technological curiosity, creativity and solution-focused thinking.
- Supporting innovation projects, workshops, competitions and awareness campaigns.
- Gathering student feedback about how technology and AI affect teaching, learning and wellbeing.
- Sharing student feedback and recommendations with the school's IT, academic and leadership teams.
- Acting as positive digital role models and supporting peers to use technology safely, critically and responsibly.

Creative Arts Ambassador (Secondary Only)

Creative Arts Ambassadors are Secondary student leaders who promote engagement with the arts and create opportunities for students to express themselves creatively. They help ensure that music, theatre, visual arts and dance are vibrant and inclusive parts of school life. Their responsibilities include:

- Promoting participation and enthusiasm across all areas of the creative arts.
- Supporting the organisation of performances, exhibitions, competitions, workshops and cultural events.
- Creating opportunities for students to share and celebrate their creative talents.
- Ensuring that arts activities are accessible and welcoming to all students, including beginners and those trying an art form for the first time.
- Gathering student views and suggestions about creative arts provision across the school.
- Working collaboratively with other student leaders, including Sports Captains and Charity Ambassadors, to incorporate creative elements into school-wide events.
- Promoting safe, supportive spaces in which students feel confident to experiment, perform and express themselves.
- Acting as positive role models who demonstrate creativity, commitment and respect for the work of others.

Media Ambassador (Secondary Only)

Media Ambassadors are Secondary student leaders who support the planning, creation and promotion of school media content and initiatives. They help communicate and celebrate school life in a responsible, creative and professional manner. Their responsibilities include:

- Supporting and overseeing student-led media activities and projects across the school.
- Leading the Student Media Team and delegating responsibilities appropriately.
- Collaborating with the Senior Leadership Team, Heads of Department and other student leaders to plan and deliver media initiatives.
- Supporting the creation of content for school publications, displays, broadcasts and approved digital platforms.
- Promoting school events, achievements and student successes through appropriate media channels.
- Ensuring that all content is accurate, respectful and aligned with the school's values and policies.
- Following all safeguarding, data-protection, copyright and media-consent requirements.
- Gathering student ideas and feedback to improve the school's media provision.
- Acting as positive digital role models and using media equipment responsibly.

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4. Student Champions

At WSD, there are nine Student Champion roles:

1. Finance
2. Entrepreneurship
3. Model United Nations (MUN)
4. Sustainable Arts
5. Performing Arts
6. Digital Arts
7. Psychology
8. Media
9. Super Lions

The following section provides an overview of each Student Champion role and its key responsibilities.

Digital Champions

Digital Champions are student leaders who promote responsible digital citizenship, online safety and the appropriate use of technology across the school. Their responsibilities include:

- Raising awareness of online-safety topics, including cyberbullying, data privacy, digital footprints, online etiquette and protecting personal information.
- Supporting age-appropriate workshops, assemblies, presentations and campaigns about safe and responsible technology use.
- Providing peer guidance on safe online practices and signposting students to a trusted adult when support is required.
- Encouraging students to report harmful, inappropriate or concerning online content or behaviour.
- Promoting positive, respectful and responsible communication online.
- Helping students understand how to evaluate the reliability and accuracy of digital information.
- Supporting school initiatives that promote the purposeful use of technology for learning.
- Acting as positive digital role models and following the school's BYOD, safeguarding and acceptable-use expectations.

Digital Champions do not investigate online-safety or safeguarding concerns. Any concern about a student's safety or wellbeing must be reported immediately to a trusted adult or the school's safeguarding team.

Eco Champions

Eco Champions are student leaders who promote environmental awareness and encourage sustainable practices across the school community. Their responsibilities include:

- Organising and supporting recycling, litter-reduction and waste-management initiatives.
- Educating students about environmental issues and practical sustainable choices.
- Encouraging the responsible use of water, electricity, paper and other resources.
- Supporting campaigns, competitions and events linked to environmental awareness.
- Helping to monitor recycling, waste and resource conservation across the school.
- Identifying practical ways to reduce the school's environmental footprint.
- Encouraging students and staff to take collective responsibility for the school environment.
- Acting as positive role models by demonstrating environmentally responsible behaviours.

Super Lions Champions (Secondary only)

Super Lions Champions are Secondary student leaders who promote inclusive sport and support the development of sporting opportunities for students enrolled in the Inclusion programme. Their responsibilities include:

- Supporting a clear and inclusive vision for the development of Super Lions sports programmes and initiatives.
- Encouraging students of all abilities to participate confidently in physical activity and sport.
- Inspiring healthy lifestyles and lifelong participation in sport.
- Supporting inclusive training sessions, sporting events and competitions.
- Working collaboratively with students, PE staff and the Inclusion team to identify appropriate opportunities and support.
- Promoting teamwork, resilience, fair play and mutual respect.
- Representing WSD and the Super Lions at sporting competitions, assemblies and official events.
- Celebrating students' effort, progress and achievements.
- Acting as positive role models and advocates for inclusion across the school community.

Finance Champions (Secondary Only)

Finance Champions are Secondary student leaders who promote financial literacy and responsible money management across the school community. Their responsibilities include:

- Leading awareness campaigns, activities and projects that develop students' financial knowledge.
- Supporting younger students in understanding age-appropriate financial skills, including budgeting, saving, spending and making informed financial choices.
- Promoting responsible and ethical attitudes towards money and financial decision-making.
- Supporting relevant enterprise, fundraising and financial-literacy initiatives.
- Encouraging honesty, transparency and accountability in the handling of funds.
- Helping to ensure fairness and inclusivity within student-led financial activities.
- Working collaboratively with staff and other student leaders to promote financial education.
- Acting as positive role models by demonstrating integrity, responsibility and sound judgement.

MUN Champions (Secondary Only)

MUN Champions are Secondary student leaders who promote diplomacy, global awareness and informed engagement with international issues. They support students in developing the knowledge, confidence and skills needed to participate successfully in Model United Nations activities. Their responsibilities include:

- Promoting global citizenship, critical thinking, diplomacy and collaborative problem-solving across the school community.
- Supporting the organisation and development of the school's MUN programme, conferences and delegations.
- Leading introductory workshops on position-paper writing, research, public speaking, debating and parliamentary procedure.
- Mentoring students who are new to MUN and helping them prepare for conferences.
- Organising awareness campaigns and activities linked to global issues and United Nations priorities.
- Encouraging respectful debate and an appreciation of different perspectives.
- Representing WSD at internal and external MUN conferences and events.
- Acting as positive role models by demonstrating confidence, professionalism, respect and integrity.

Student Mentors

Student Mentors are trained student leaders who provide appropriate peer support, encouragement and guidance to assigned students. They help mentees set goals, build confidence, develop positive learning habits and feel connected to the school community. Their responsibilities include:

- Meeting with assigned mentees regularly and offering encouragement and age-appropriate guidance.
- Supporting mentees in setting and reviewing achievable academic, social or personal-development goals.
- Listening respectfully and without judgement.
- Helping mentees identify positive strategies for managing everyday challenges.
- Signposting mentees to relevant school staff, resources and services, including teachers, counsellors and the wellbeing team.
- Participating in ongoing mentor training and supervision.
- Maintaining appropriate professional boundaries and treating personal information sensitively.
- Reporting any concern about a student's safety or wellbeing immediately to a trusted adult or the safeguarding team.
- Acting as positive role models by demonstrating empathy, reliability, respect and integrity.
- Student Mentors are not counsellors and must not promise confidentiality. Any information indicating that a student may be at risk must be shared promptly with an appropriate member of staff.

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5. Selection Process, Terms of Office & Expectations

The selection process will vary according to the student leadership role and may include nomination, application, election, interview or staff appointment. Form Representatives will normally be elected by students within their form class, while other roles may involve year-group or school-wide elections or a formal application and selection process.

The eligibility criteria, responsibilities and application arrangements for each role will be communicated clearly to students through form notices and other school communication channels.

Student leadership positions are normally held for one academic year. Head Students will be selected each September and will remain in post until the end of the academic year. Where appropriate, transition and handover activities may take place to support incoming student leaders.

All student leaders are expected to:

- Fulfil the responsibilities associated with their role reliably and consistently.
- Demonstrate exemplary behaviour and uphold the school's values.
- Maintain a positive attitude towards learning and make a sustained effort academically.
- Attend required meetings, training sessions, events and activities.
- Communicate respectfully and work collaboratively with students and staff.
- Act responsibly, maintain appropriate confidentiality and follow safeguarding expectations.
- Balance their leadership responsibilities with their academic commitments.

Where a student leader does not meet these expectations, the school will provide guidance, support and an opportunity to improve. Where concerns continue, or where there is a serious breach of the school's Behaviour,

Safeguarding or Student Leadership policies, the role may be suspended or withdrawn at the discretion of the school's leadership team.

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6. Training & Support

WSD is committed to providing student leaders with the age-appropriate training, guidance and ongoing support required to fulfil their roles safely, confidently and effectively. Training will be tailored to each leadership position and may include:

- Leadership, teamwork and effective communication.
- Public speaking, presentation and meeting skills.
- Safeguarding, confidentiality and appropriate boundaries.
- Conflict resolution and respectful problem-solving.
- Equality, inclusion and cultural awareness.
- Online safety and responsible digital communication.
- Project planning, organisation and evaluation.
- Role-specific knowledge and practical skills.

Each student leadership group will have a designated staff member who provides supervision, guidance and regular opportunities for reflection. Student leaders will be encouraged to seek support whenever they are uncertain about their responsibilities or encounter a concern beyond the scope of their role. Safeguarding or wellbeing concerns must always be referred immediately to an appropriate member of staff.

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7. Conclusion

Student leadership is both a valuable opportunity and an important responsibility at WSD. Through these roles, students develop confidence, communication, teamwork and leadership skills while making a meaningful contribution to school improvement and community life. We encourage students from all backgrounds and with a wide range of strengths and interests to consider applying for a leadership position and playing an active role in the continued growth and success of WSD.

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