



## ***St. Francis' College***

### ***House System Policy (Prep and Senior)***

#### **Introduction**

The 'College' refers to all the staff and pupils of the Prep Department and Senior School which includes Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), Pre-Prep (Key Stage 1), Prep (Key Stage 2), and Senior School (Key Stages 3-5).

#### **Purpose**

The House System at St Francis' College helps to reflect the ethos of the College by fostering a sense of community, awareness of each other and a sense of being part of a team. St Francis' College is organised into four Houses. Each student and member of staff is placed in a House when they join and are encouraged to take part in a wide range of inter-House activities. The House System is designed to encourage students to mix in wider age and friendship groups as well as promoting friendly competition. Students have a real sense of pride in their House. The House System plays an active role in supporting the pastoral aims of the College.

The Deputy Head has oversight of the House System in both the Senior and the Prep Departments.

#### **Organisation of Senior School Houses**

Houses meet weekly on Friday mornings during registration and meetings are organised and led by our House Captains who are members of the Sixth Form. House Captains are supported by a member of staff who undertakes the role of Head of House. All teaching staff are encouraged to attend house meetings and take part in House activities. On Friday morning, all students register in their Houses instead of with their tutor.

There is a thriving series of inter-House competitions, which encompass all areas of school life from the academic and artistic to the sporting. Activities include hockey, netball, quizzes, swimming, food and nutrition, music, debating and athletics. Competition between Houses is a healthy one with our students taking great pride in their own achievements, whilst respecting the successes of other Houses. Houses also provide an opportunity for students to mix socially at events such as Christmas parties and charity film events.

Whole school events, such as Future Ready Days are held through the House System.

The member of staff responsible for the Senior House System is Dr Chris Tansell.

Senior and Prep Houses hold joint meetings on a regular basis, which unite the College as a whole through the pastoral system.

#### **Organisation of Prep Department Houses**

Houses meet fortnightly and are organised by staff supported by our House Captains who are members of Prep VI. All staff are expected to attend House meetings and take part in House activities. The Captains are responsible for the upkeep of their display boards in the Prep Hall. Activities include quizzes, leading assemblies, sport, charity days and competitions.

Senior and Prep Houses hold joint meetings on a regular basis, which unites the College as a whole through a pastoral system.

The member of staff responsible for Houses within the Prep Department is Jo Day, Deputy Head of the Prep Department.

### **Reward System - Senior School**

As well as verbal and written comments from staff there are a range of different methods whereby students are rewarded for their good behaviour, effort and academic work through the House system. Many of these are awarded at termly Achievement Assemblies.

- House Merits are given by all staff to individual pupils for their behaviour, effort and success in lessons. These are totalled up each term. A prize is given to pupils in each House in Year 7, 8 and 9 with the most merits. These merits are also translated into House points.
- Contribution to the House. A special prize is given each term to a Year 10 and 11 pupil who have made the most contribution to their House.
- Cups and Trophies are given as prizes to Senior School students for individual House achievement.

### **Rewards System – Prep**

In the Prep School, House points are used in recognition of good behaviour, as well as for acts of kindness, good citizenship and academic work and effort. The students place any House point counters they are given into their House collection box. The boxes are positioned in the Prep School Foyer and the totals are counted up at the end of each week to go towards the awarding of a House Prize for the most House points awarded. At the end of each term the winning House received a reward from the Head of the Prep School. In addition, an Award is presented at Speech Day to the winning House for that academic year.

### **Benefits of the House System**

The greater sense of belonging and pride that come from being part of the House System have a huge benefit to all the pupils and staff.

- Mixing with students from different year groups helps to improve pupils' confidence and interpersonal skills, within and between Prep and Senior school.
- Leadership opportunities for Sixth Form House Captains who organise and run House meetings, liaise with Head of House and manage the House budget.
- Leadership opportunities for Prep VI House Captains and Vice House Captains who organise assemblies, liaise with Senior School captains and Head of Houses and run House meetings.
- Pupils' relationships with peers, teachers and support staff is much improved.
- Greater opportunity for extra curricular participation.
- Sense of community enhanced.
- Helps to foster a more aware and involved School.
- Provides variety of activities for pupils, which can help students to develop a range of skills.

- Staff gain an improved knowledge of pupils' all round performance.
- Older pupils provide peer mentoring to younger House members.
- Support to the pastoral care system within the College.
- Facilitate opportunities for cross-year group learning inside the curriculum.

### Related Policies

Pastoral Care Policy  
Behaviour and Sanctions Policy

Reviewed By:	Deputy Head
Authorised By:	Head
Effective From	September 2022
Next Review Due	September 2023