



OLD BUCKENHAM HALL

A leading co-educational preparatory school for children aged 2-13 years

Prefects Policy

OBHP25

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PREFECTS POLICY

Introduction

Old Buckenham Hall promotes leadership opportunities for all its pupils. These can involve taking on a role at School Council, captaining a sports team, or interviewing members of staff. A Prefect role is another opportunity for leadership at the top of the school. Prefects are selected from Year 8 children following the process outlined below. Prefects are expected to exemplify the positive qualities that we expect of the pupils at Old Buckenham Hall.

Prefect Roles and Responsibilities

The role of a Prefect is not exhaustive, and prefects may be asked to take on responsibilities at certain times. This might include helping at an event or tour prospective parents around the school. Prefects will be selected to specific roles. These might include the following; however, roles can change each year depending on numbers of children in Year 8 and the evident qualities of each child. There is no given right to be a prefect and it would not be desirable for more than half of a year group to take on a role to maintain the integrity of the posts.

Likely roles depending on year group size:

Head Boy and Head Girl

Head of House

Boarding Prefect

Each of the roles will have a job description supplied by the Prefects line manager. For example, the boarding Prefect will be managed by the Head of Boarding.

While we always expect Prefects to display qualities of good behaviour and support for those around them, we recognise that children make mistakes and Prefects are not exempt from this. Prefects are subject to the Behaviour Policy like all other children. However, if a Prefect is persistently misbehaving or not performing duties as expected, they may lose the position. A warning will always be given first, except in case of serious misdemeanour, and a member of the Senior Management Team, normally the Deputy Head or Headmaster will speak to parents if this course of action is followed.

Selection Process

In the Summer Term of Year 7, or in the first two weeks of the Michaelmas term, all children will be invited to speak in a whole school assembly for no more than one minute to explain why they would like to be a prefect and what they would bring to the role.

Following this there will be a secret ballot of pupils and teachers, the results of which will be shared amongst SMT only. This ballot will be to choose a Head Girl and Head Boy. The ballot will not be the

definitive decision-making process for these roles, but it will help inform the conversation between SMT members.

All children will be interviewed by the Headmaster and other members of the SMT. Following this there will be a discussion amongst SMT to decide on the two senior Prefect roles. The aim will be to reach a consensus but all final decisions rest with the Headmaster.

At this meeting other Prefect roles may be decided, and the results will be shared with children upon their return to school in September. The Head Boy and Head Girl roles will be announced at Speech Day by the incumbent Head Boy and Head Girl. If not all roles have been decided upon, another process of application may take place in the Michaelmas term of Year 8. Potential prefects will be asked to write their preferred job descriptions.