

Secondary SRC Leadership Training

Student Workbook

Name: _____

Class: _____

Outline

Session 1: 9.00am - 10.30am

Purpose - to examine leadership skills required by SRC members

- Roles and Expectations
- Getting to Know Others
- Team building
- Communication

Morning Tea

Session 2: 11.00am - 12.30pm

Purpose - to identify planning and organisation required to implement SRC projects/priorities

- Creative Thinking Skills
- Perseverance
- Negotiating
- Action Planning

Lunch

Session 3: 1.30pm - 3.00pm

Purpose - to investigate the organisation of a meeting and develop effective leadership skills

- Meeting Procedures
- Decision Making
- Problem Solving
- Reflection
- Evaluation

What is the SRC?

- The SRC is made up of student representatives who are democratically elected by all students within the school.
- It provides a structure and processes to gather the views of community members and improve school life.
- The SRC addresses relevant issues and sets achievable goals, to support the whole school.

What are an SRC's aims?

An SRC aims to:

- develop leadership skills
- ensure students' views are heard in decision making processes
- empower students to contribute towards a positive school culture
- strengthen the school community through active participation

“It is a program which actively involves students in their own education and welfare, develops leadership skills and empowers students to make a positive contribution to the school community.” - Peer Support

Key Skills for SRC Leadership

- communication
- perseverance
- decision-making
- relationship building
- problem solving
- planning

**"Leadership means getting along with people."
– Indira Gandhi**

**"A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination."
- Nelson Mandela**

**"Leaders are not born and leadership abilities can be consciously developed."
- James McGregor Burns**

**"Leadership is persuading people to work to a common goal."
- Daniel Goleman**

**"Leaders are dealers in hope."
- Napoleon**

**"Never believe a few caring people can't change the world. Indeed, that is all who ever have."
– Margaret Mead**

Definitions

Democracy

A way of making decisions in which all people can express their opinion. It involves having conversations about issues and developing connections among people of different backgrounds, views and ages. It requires an open atmosphere of listening and sharing where questions can be asked and discussed.

Leadership

Leadership is not about acting out a role. It's about using your skills and behaviour to guide, support and serve a group to achieve a common goal.

Participation

Participation is about using opportunities, knowledge and skills to have a say in decisions. It involves making positive contributions by putting thoughts and ideas into action.

Responsibility

It is about accepting the role that individuals have within groups. When we acknowledge our choices in making decisions and solving problems, we are taking responsibility for our actions.

Advocacy

Is about representing the views of other people and yourself. If done cooperatively, it can help lead to shared solutions for problems.

What is an effective SRC?

An effective SRC will enable students to:

- act in the best interest of themselves, the SRC and the school community
- investigate ideas and bring them to fruition
- identify areas of change and initiate action
- respond to collective needs of students in the best interests of the whole school
- use effective democratic process, and practise effective leadership
- be involved/involve the student body in decision-making and problem-solving
- understand roles and responsibilities of SRC structure and meeting procedure
- communicate with students, staff and others
- become responsible citizens, and participate in the broader community

Strategies for gaining support from:

The Principal

- be clear about what you want to achieve
- prepare a plan
- start with small achievable goals
- listen to advice/suggestions
- ask to speak at an executive meeting about student leadership
- contact successful SRCs from other schools

The Teachers

- talk informally to your teachers about student leadership
- ask to speak at a staff meeting
- invite supportive teachers to your meetings
- listen to their ideas and advice
- be clear about what you would like to see happening

The Students

- feedback information from meetings to your class/year group
- talk informally to groups at break times
- ask students what they would like to see happening in their school
- listen to their ideas, suggestions and concerns
- make sure that you are inclusive by seeking views of a range of students

Useful suggestions/ideas

- simple questionnaires with space for additional comments
- structured interviews in small groups so students can respond to a series of questions on a particular issue
- videos or films to highlight the views of students about a particular issue
- brainstorming sessions where students can feel free to express their views
- action groups (committees) which focus on a specific issue
- action techniques such as posters or art

SRC Roles and Responsibilities

Chairperson

- facilitates the meetings
- ensures that everyone has the opportunity to be heard
- directs discussion
- remains impartial
- summarises and clarifies points
- manages time
- is an effective communicator

Secretary

- records minutes of the meetings
- prepares the agenda in consultation with others
- writes letters and files correspondence

Treasurer

- handles the finances
- keeps accurate records of monies received and spent
- presents reports, meetings
- prepares budgets for projects

Responsibilities of all SRC Members

- attend all scheduled meetings
- discuss issues with the group they represent
- work toward improving the physical and social environment of the school
- organise activities for students
- cooperate with teachers and others in running activities
- fundraise for specific purposes

Meetings

Meetings should ideally be held fortnightly, as weekly meetings can be difficult for some students to attend. When the SRC meets fortnightly in the 'off' week, committees can meet or the SRC executive can meet with teachers or parents. Meetings can be formal or informal.