

Saint Andrew's Primary

House Points Policy

March 2023

Rationale:

This policy explains how Houses are arranged, how pupils gain House Points and how members of Houses are rewarded.



Article 29:

Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

The mission of the Catholic school is to develop as a community of faith and learning, providing the highest quality of education, and offering formation through the promotion of Gospel values, through celebration and worship, and through service to the common good.



The House system is an effective way of promoting team spirit and encouraging children to aim high and take pride in achieving House Points. As children from every class are in every House, the system is an effective way to mix year groups and encourage older children to take care of younger ones and set an example for them. Pupils can gain House Points throughout the year for behaviour and achievements in class, the playground, lunchroom and outside school.

We have four houses, named using our SMART school vision motto:

- **S**upportive
- **M**otivated
- **A**chieving
- **R**especting
- **T**rustworthy

Allocation of Houses

Children have been randomly allocated to houses. Moving forward, children will be allocated to houses when they begin P1. We will aim to ensure all P1 pupils are allocated to the same house as their P7 buddy. New pupils to the school will be allocated a house when they join. Teachers are given a list of the children's Houses and can allocate new children. **Teachers must inform the office about this allocation and about any changes.** P1 teachers are given a list of the Houses of children with older siblings but they can then allocate the other children to any House. All members of staff are also allocated to a house. Staff members of Houses are expected to support House Captains. House Assemblies will be led by members of staff allocated to each House, supported by House Captains. Staff are asked to join in competitions and quizzes organised for the Houses.

Captains

There are two Captains for each House.

At the beginning of the new session, P7s will be given the opportunity to nominate themselves in writing as House Captains. P7 pupils who do not wish to nominate themselves as House Captains can write a letter in support of a classmate's nomination. The Senior Leadership Team (headteacher and principal teachers) will then interview all the children who have nominated themselves.

They will decide on the Captains after consultation with class teachers. The Captains will wear badges to show their position in the school.

Captains will be expected to:

- Bring their House into assembly quietly and sensibly
- Sit at the front of their house at assembly and encourage good behaviour from members of their house
- Be a buddy to younger children in their House
- Demonstrate a positive attitude and good behaviour
- Help in the lunchroom on a rota basis (at least one Captain on duty each day)
- Organise a rota of helpers to help in the packed lunch hall– assist with opening items in packed lunches, checking that litter is not thrown on the floor, cleaning tables, sweeping floor etc
- Collect and count up the house points
- Organise House competitions
- Contribute to House Assemblies
- Propose ideas that will improve the House System
- Represent the pupils on school occasions by greeting visitors, escorting them, giving short speeches of welcome or thanks etc
- Attend meetings with the Headteacher or Principal Teachers

Captains whose behaviour or attitude is not a good example to others will be asked to stand down from the position

Awarding House Points

House Points are awarded one at a time.

Any member of staff can award House Points to any child, at any time and for any reason, if they are “caught being good” or meeting the set weekly target.

Every member of staff has a supply of coloured tokens and can give one of the appropriate colour to a child who has gained a House Point. The token should be posted in the house points jar in each class. Each Friday, a class representative of each house, will post the class points in the house points display in the entrance foyer of the school.

The headteacher and principal teachers can hand out Gold Tokens to any pupil for special achievements, being especially helpful, going above and beyond or for exemplary positive behaviour. Gold Tokens are worth 10 points.

Each week there will be a school target discussed at assembly and staff members should specifically award house points if children are seen to be trying to meet this target. Children and Houses will also be awarded House Points at assembly for good behaviour and/or participation.

House points should always be awarded in a spirit of positivity and the denial of house points should never become a focus. House points cannot be deducted from houses.

Rewarding Winning Houses

The Captains will empty the House Point boxes on Thursday mornings. They will count all the tokens, write the totals in their House Captain books and inform the Headteacher or Principal teacher before assembly.

Every House will have a display area in the hall where Captains can display House achievements and points won.

There will be weekly, interim and termly recognition as well as an annual award.

Weekly Award: At the end of each assembly, the weekly winners will be announced. Members of the winning house will stand for applause and congratulations.

Interim Awards: These will be given when the House reaches the following amount of points during a term:

- More than 250 points – An extra playtime on the first dry day of the next week
- More than 500 points – All the children will receive a pencil in their House colour
- More than 750 points – A House Trip to the local park

The House who has earned the most points over a term will be given the choice from the following rewards. The Captains will choose the reward and the staff members of the House will supervise the chosen activity.

The choice of different rewards given to the children will be dependent upon staffing availability, weather and financial constraints.

1. Watch a DVD on the big screen in the hall with juice and treats
2. Have a crafts afternoon/STEM challenge
3. Wear own clothes for the day
4. House trip to the local park with a juice and treats

Consultation with Pupils

Termly, the Pupil Council will be given the opportunity to review the rewards and propose new rewards.

Pupils who do not contribute to their Houses

The expectation is that children will be loyal to their House and try their best to earn points by displaying good behaviour and attitudes. If children are consistently making poor behaviour choices and consequently they are not contributing points to their House, then they will be temporarily removed from their House. This should be carried out discreetly and with respect for the dignity of the child being removed. In consultation with the SLT, class teacher, parent or guardian and the pupil, targets will be set for the pupil to meet so that they can rejoin their house. Whilst the pupil is not in the House System, they will not participate in any of the weekly, interim, termly or annual rewards for their House.