

## Promoting Respect and Responsibility

Macarthur Anglican School, like all schools, plays a key role in promoting respect and responsibility among its students. At Macarthur, respect and responsibility are promoted from the moment a child enrolls, whether that is at an early age among those who enrol in the Junior School – in Transition or Kindergarten to Year 4 – or at a later time, such as the beginning of Year 7 or any other level if they transfer from another school.

### Leadership Opportunities

Opportunities to practise leadership are an important element in developing responsibility, while at the same time, there is an onus upon others to show respect for those who lead. From among Year 6 are chosen the first group of Student Leaders (usually 10 students) giving relatively young students their first experience in handling this responsibility. Clearly, older students have more opportunity to contribute to the school through leadership, but the system at Macarthur allows for a graded progression from Year 6 Leaders, through to the levels of Middle School Prefect (chosen from among Year 9 students) and finally School Prefect when students reach Year 12 (approximately 20 students).

In addition, the school has created a number of other leadership positions reflecting the wide range of sporting and cultural activities carried in the school. The full list of school leadership positions is as follows:

- School Captain (one student); School Vice-Captain (two students); School Prefect (approximately twenty students)
- Middle School Prefect (approximately eight students);
- Year 6 Student Leader (approximately ten students);
- House Captains (six students);
- Captains of Sporting Activities (Swimming, Athletics, Cross Country and Snow Sports)
- Christian Ministry Leader (one student);
- Music Leaders (four students – Choirmaster, Bandmaster, Orchestraster and Drum Major);
- Peer Support Leaders –Pastoral (approximately twenty-four students).
- Peer Academic Mentors (varying numbers) with senior students offering support in developing study programmes for Year 7.
- Students appointed in the first three categories above (Prefect or Year 6 Leader) are presented with insignia, such as a badge, at an assembly in front of their peers. Together they must then make a pledge by reading an oath of office as follows:

### VALUES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE MACARTHUR WAY

The values and principles that form the basis of 'The Macarthur Way' are articulated within the School community as the 'Nine Pillars of the Macarthur Way'. They are underpinned by the doctrines of the Sydney Diocese of the Anglican Church in Australia and support and reflect the Australian Government's National Framework for Values Education in Australian Schools (2005). The 'Nine Pillars of the Macarthur Way' give meaning and purpose to the multiple interactions at school in whatever context that might occur. They guide all that the School does, as the School Council, the Headmaster, staff, students and parents strive to achieve the School's Mission, Purpose and Priorities.

## **SCHOOL MISSION**

To provide an education that in its content and environment allows for full individual development in the spiritual, academic, physical, artistic/creative and social domains based on a clear biblical perspective in accordance with the doctrines and principles of the Anglican Church of Australia in force in the Diocese of Sydney.

## **PURPOSES AND PRIORITIES**

In pursuit of its Mission, Macarthur Anglican School will:

- In dependence upon God, provide a context of knowledge, support and encouragement without undue pressure, within which students are free to make and maintain such commitment to Jesus Christ and His teaching as would lead them to develop mature Christian lives.
- Recognise that students have a range of abilities and provide appropriate levels of knowledge and opportunities to develop skills, which will enable them to reach their potential and pursue further learning throughout their lives. Recognise that students are developing physical beings and provide appropriate programmes that will enable them (a) to appreciate the capabilities of the human body, (b) to extend and develop their personal abilities, and (c) to develop behavioural attitudes conducive to living healthy lifestyles.
- Recognise that students have a range of talents and provide appropriate opportunities to encourage them to develop their talents for their own enrichment and that of the School and its community.
- Recognise that students are social beings and provide its programmes (spiritual, academic, physical and cultural) in such a manner as will encourage the development of attitudes, behaviour and standards to enable wholesome relationships with other students, teachers, family and the wider school community.

## **THE PILLARS OF THE MACARTHUR WAY**

Macarthur is a Christian School and its intention and desire is that the values underpinning all that is done in this community is inspired by, can be found within and are expressed through the Bible.

The 'Pillars of the Macarthur Way' give meaning and purpose to the multiple interactions at the School in whatever context that might occur. They guide all that the School does, as the School Council, the Headmaster, staff, students and parents strive to achieve the School's Mission, Purpose and Priorities.

The 'Pillars' are based on three underlying foundational values of Grace, Perseverance and Service and are outlined below.

Learning - Seek to always grow in knowledge, skills and understanding and be wise in its application using it in a way that is morally right.

Excellence - Strive to make everything one does better than before.

Integrity - Act in accordance with principles of moral and ethical conduct, and ensure consistency between words and actions.

Respect - Respect and care for yourself and others, appreciate individual and cultural differences and their uniqueness by always being polite and courteous to others.

Self-Discipline - Seek to control your feelings and actions so that you do what is right and proper without the need for external influences and encourage others to do the same.

Honesty - Seek and communicate the truth by committing to be trustworthy and reliable in all that you do.

Responsibility - Be accountable for and in charge of one's own actions – spiritually, personally, socially, environmentally and within the community.

Humility - Consider the best interests of others first and acknowledge that personal success is not for self, but for the glory of God. Generosity - Seek to be generous in time and resources to those that are less fortunate than ourselves.

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## **STUDENT WELFARE AND CONDUCT AT MACARTHUR**

### YEAR 5 - YEAR 12

Macarthur aims to create a safe, caring and enjoyable learning environment. This aim can be achieved only if we respect and care for ourselves, respect and care for other people and respect and care for our environment.

#### RESPECT AND CARE FOR OURSELVES

It's very hard to love others when we don't value ourselves. The Bible tells us in many places that we are all loved by God and are valuable to Him. We can respect and care for ourselves by:

- Doing our best in all curricular and co-curricular activities to develop our intellect, abilities and talents;
- Reinforcing school learning by completing all required homework;
- Attending to personal appearance and hygiene such as being well-groomed and wearing the school uniform properly;
- Speaking appropriately without swearing or blaspheming; and
- Rejecting involvement with smoking, alcohol and other drugs.

#### RESPECT AND CARE FOR OTHERS

Jesus taught us, 'Love your neighbour as yourself' (*Mk 12:31*) and 'in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you' (*Mt 7:12*). This teaching of Jesus sums up Macarthur's expectations of students in their dealings with others. Therefore all students should:

- Allow others to enhance their learning to develop their talents and abilities by respecting teachers' authority and directions and assisting other students in their learning.
- Appreciate and value the achievements and contributions of other students.
- Be considerate towards each other by not fighting or injuring one another particularly by resisting bullying and reporting incidents of it.
- Speak appropriately, addressing people in a suitable manner and not calling each other hurtful names.
- Not use or take anyone else's property without prior permission.
- Enhance the reputation of the School by the proper wearing of school uniform and behaving appropriately in and out of school.

- Listen to and obey those in authority, such as teachers, prefects, transport monitors, house captains, canteen and other staff.

## RESPECT AND CARE FOR GOD'S WORLD (OUR ENVIRONMENT)

God's creation is intended for all people to enjoy. It is our responsibility to look after it by:

- Keeping our school and the community clean.
- Showing pride in our surroundings.
- Nurturing plants and wildlife around the School.
- Placing all litter in bins and encouraging others to do the same.
- Keeping classrooms, change rooms, toilets and public places neat, clean and tidy.
- Fostering a safe environment in which to learn and stay in school boundaries, and
- Taking care of the property including the prevention of graffiti.

Learning is not an end in itself, but a means by which you can use your gifts in service. Hence our school motto, 'Enter to Learn, Go out to Serve' is a living reality. You are given many opportunities to serve the school and the community and are being prepared for a life of service. Service is practised on mission trips, in sport, in Houses, in performances, in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, as Prefects and in leadership roles in other co-curricular programmes. In Year 11 all students are expected to complete Community Service. Our desire to develop an ethic of service is modelled on the life of Christ, who, although He was the Creator of the universe, did not come to earth to be served but to serve. Learning to serve will help all of you become better leaders. Our hope is that you will take leadership roles in your life that will bless your home, workplace and community and we want to prepare you for that.

The curriculum at Macarthur has an international focus. You are encouraged to look beyond the southwest of Sydney, indeed beyond these shores. In Years 9 and 10 every student is expected to study either world Geography or World History. Students also have the opportunity to learn Indonesian. We have link schools in Hungary, Canada, Japan, Tanzania and Indonesia. Student and teacher visits and exchanges with these schools are encouraged. You also have the opportunity to visit other countries in Europe, Asia and the Americas through Mission Outreach, Music tours, History tours and cultural tours. A number of international students study alongside our Australian students. We want you as Macarthur graduates to be global citizens equipped to take your place in the world.

Research consistently shows that engaged students are happy students. For that reason, Macarthur provides you with a rich co-curricular programme. Macarthur's music programme is of world-class quality. Outstanding musicals and dramas are a regular feature of our co-curricular programme. Peripatetic music classes are available and many students benefit from the one-on-one tuition this provides. Other opportunities for you exist in a whole range of sports, adventure activities, public speaking and debating activities, the Thailand Outreach, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Community Service Team and The Drama Club are just a few of the many opportunities available for you to get involved in your school.

Macarthur is a Christian school. We don't just try to impart knowledge, but wisdom. Therefore, the teaching of all our subjects occurs within an ethical framework. We don't always have much choice in what we teach you, but you can be assured that the ideas you are presented with are challenged and tested in light of Christ's teachings. For that reason Biblical Studies, School Camps and Chapels are an essential part of being a Macarthur student. Christian students or inquiring students have the freedom to learn more about God in Bible studies and other voluntary Christian groups the School provides. Students are reminded that the Bible tells us one day knowledge will pass away, but God's love and wisdom will have an eternal value.

You are made in the image of God. He cares for you and your teachers care for you. They want you to share in the hope they have in Christ as Saviour. Our pastoral care programme is designed to make sure all children are cared for. Each student has a Class Teacher or House Teacher. Each student is in a House that provides a sense of belonging and opportunity for involvement. Your Head of House and Head of School have a direct concern to ensure your learning and pastoral needs are being met.

At Macarthur, we endeavour to educate the whole person. That is, we want your academic, physical, emotional and spiritual qualities to grow and mature. Your attitude plays a large role in helping us make this happen. If you take advantage of the opportunities you are given, a Macarthur education will provide you with a rich resource from which you can draw upon all experiences you will face in life. My expectation and my prayer is that you will take these opportunities. To do so is to be educated in the Macarthur Way!