

Kellyville Public School

A tradition of excellence and opportunity



DEBATING POLICY

RATIONALE: Kellyville Public School is committed to providing a learning environment which caters to the development of the whole child.

Kellyville Public School participates in a number of debating competitions, including the Premier's Debating Challenge and the Ridges/Ponds Friendly Debating Competition. These competitions are one of the many avenues for children to represent Kellyville Public School.

At Kellyville Public School, we aim to ensure that all children in Stage 3 are given the opportunity to audition for the debating teams.

Members of these debating teams are selected according to each student's performance during the audition process.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: This policy is to be used when selecting students for the debating teams across the school.

The Premier's Debating Challenge and the Ridges/Ponds Friendly Debating Competition teams will be selected from students across Stage 3.

IMPLEMENTATION:

- During the first few weeks of the school year, students from Stage 3 will be notified at recess lines about debating team auditions. All interested students can try out through the audition process.
- Prior to auditioning, interested students will be required to collect information, including the audition topic and guidelines from the organising teacher during an allocated lunchtime. Students will have one week to prepare a persuasive speech on the given topic.
- Students who are absent on the information/topic collection day due to illness or school business will be provided an additional opportunity to collect relevant information in order to prepare for the selection/audition day. Similarly, students who are absent on the selection/audition day due to illness or school business will be provided an additional opportunity to audition. The student needs to see the debating teacher on their return to school in order to discuss the time and place of the additional audition. If the debating team has already been chosen and names have been displayed of successful students, before the students return, this additional audition will not be possible.
- At the audition, students will be selected based on their ability to demonstrate specific Speaking and Listening Skills, including the use of eye contact, volume, expression, fluency, stance, argument structure (including their use of persuasive devices), the overall structure and cohesiveness of their speech as well as their ability to speak within a time limit.

- At each audition, there will be a minimum of 2 teachers present.
- Students will be notified about the selection of each team through an announcement, at recess lines, about when the list will be published on the school notice board.
- Students selected for debating teams will receive a letter of commitment which outlines practice times, expectations and additional details for the particular team. Parents and students will be required to read and sign the letter acknowledging they understand the commitments outlined in the letter.
- Debating team members are expected to attend weekly practices on their scheduled morning and/or lunchtime. Students' practice times may increase when the competition dates are near.
- Representing the school is a privilege. Students are at all times, expected to uphold the Kellyville Public School rules: Be Respectful, Be Safe, Be a Learner. Students must display this etiquette at all time. Failing to do so, may jeopardise their position in the team.
- Students will participate in a debating training day, during school hours in Term 1.
- Students will travel to competition locations and training days with the debating teacher and/or a member of the executive team.
- Students will be required to wear the full school uniform on the scheduled competition dates.