
Macleans College - POLICIES & DIRECTIVES

SECTION NO: **600**

POLICY NO: **607**

ISSUE DATE: 06/03/03

TITLE: **STUDENT GUIDANCE AND
SUPPORT SYSTEMS**

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Peer Support

RATIONALE:

The peer support programme of senior students assisting junior students in an informal way, but within a structured programme, offers a useful adjunct to the whanau house school. As Macleans increases in size the invaluable informal whanau links between seniors and juniors become more distant and less effective. The peer support programme organised on a house basis enhances these valuable links. Seniors become visible and active role models, mentors and helpers to junior students.

Objective 1

To establish a peer support programme at Macleans to enhance the whanau house system and assist with the establishment of an environment in which junior students can reach the highest standard of achievement possible. (NEG 1)

Objective 2

To provide a vehicle for senior students to develop leadership and self awareness, understandings which are essential as they move towards post secondary education or occupations in the outside world. (NEG 3)

Objective 3

To set up a programme incorporating a range of interesting activities, to develop behaviour, self awareness, new social skills and understanding for juniors. (NEG 3)

Objective 4

To structure the programme to encourage maximum small group and individual interaction between seniors and juniors to help identify and reduce social and behavioural barriers to learning and achievement in juniors. (NEG 2)

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Objective 5

To encourage small groups to work with seniors to facilitate the integration and promote appreciation of the diverse cultural groups of the school. (NEG 10)

GUIDELINES:

1 Scheme

Organised by the Student Advisory Services department, working with deputy house leaders who organise within each house. Regular consultation between Student Advisory Services and deputy house leaders. (NAG 3)

2 Time Frame

The programme was introduced in 1998. Year 12 provide support for Year 9 students building on the group relationship established by Year 12 camp leaders at Year 9 camps.

3 Training

Initial training day for Year 12 students in January is held off-site with visiting speaker and workshop activities.

Regular training sessions for both Year 12 and Year 13 students are held to set the focus of assistance to juniors. The themes is group awareness (Year 9) and mentoring role stressing individual development (Year 10). (NAG 5)

4 Resources

Developed by the Student Advisory Services department, the manual gives senior students adequate information, choice of activities and assistance for running small groups. (NAG 5)

5 Review

Review session held at the beginning of each training session. Also seniors and juniors complete evaluation sheets. Deputy house leaders encouraged to offer suggestions for improvement of this system.