

St Peter's RC Primary School

Policy on House Points
February 2017



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 has been 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.

Traditionally children tried to attain House Points at Sports Day as they competed for the Alex Kennedy shield. Over recent years, there has been a greater emphasis on gaining House Points throughout the year for behaviour and achievements in class, the playground, lunchroom and outside school.

We have four houses – St Andrew, Elphinstone, Kings and St Machar. The names are based on Catholicism in Aberdeen:

- St Andrew (blue) is the patron saint of Scotland and the brother of St Peter.
- Bishop Elphinstone (red) petitioned Pope Alexander VI to found Aberdeen University in 1495.
- King's College (green) is named for King James IV who was the King when Aberdeen University was created. King's College chapel is one of the oldest chapels in Aberdeen and we go there at least once each year.
- St Machar (yellow) was reputed to be a companion of St Columba. A fourteenth-century legend tells how God (through St Columba) told Machar to establish a church where a river bends into the shape of a bishop's crosier before flowing into the sea. The River Don bends in this way just below where the Cathedral now stands. According to legend, St Machar founded a site of worship in Old Aberdeen in about 580.

Allocation of Houses

Children are allocated to a house when they start P1 or when they join the school at a later stage. Where possible, children of the same family are allocated to the same house whilst ensuring that the number of children is fairly balanced.

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 except the Headteacher and the PE teacher are allocated to one of the Houses. 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 depute headteacher) 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
- Be an example of exemplary behaviour and attitude
- 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 lunchroom – assist with opening items in packed lunches, putting dirty crockery and cutlery in the correct places, checking that litter is not thrown on the 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 Depute Headteacher

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 has to be posted into the transparent box for each House near the school trophy cabinet.

The headteacher and depute headteacher can hand out Gold Tokens to any pupil for special achievements, being especially helpful, going above and beyond or for exemplary positive behaviour. The Gold Tokens are posted in the transparent House Point boxes. 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 must be given to children who bring in Evidence of Achievement in an extra-curricular activity. House Points can be given to children for achievement in any aspect of their learning or behaviour.

Rewarding Winning Houses

The Captains will empty the House Point boxes on Friday lunchtimes. They will count all the tokens, write the totals in their House Captain books and inform the Headteacher or Depute Headteacher before assembly.

Every House has a display area in the hall where Captains can display House achievements and points won. Each House also has an area on the school webpage which will be updated with information supplied by the House Captains.

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 500 points – An extra playtime on the first dry day of the next week
- More than 1000 points – All the children will receive a pencil in their House colour
- More than 2000 points – A House Trip to Seaton Park

Termly Awards: 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
2. Have a crafts afternoon
3. House trip to the beach or other local free attraction chosen by the children.

Annual Award: The House who has earned the most points over the year will have a special trip eg to Aberdeen Science Centre, any park or beach around Aberdeen, the cinema.... The name of the House and House Captains will be inscribed on the Anne Lyden Shield to be displayed in the school Reception Area.

Consultation with Pupils

Every year 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 for their House by displaying good behaviour and attitudes. If children are consistently misbehaving and consequently they are not contributing points to their House, then they will be temporarily removed from their House. An individual behaviour plan will be drawn up after 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 in the future once their behaviour and attitudes have improved. Whilst the pupil is not in the House System, they may not participate in any of the weekly, interim, termly or annual rewards for their House.