



SPARROWS HI CURRICULUM

Leadership Development

PURPOSE

The purpose of this framework is to help students understand, develop and practise servant-hearted leadership.

Leadership at Sparrows HI is not about position, personality or popularity.

It is about character, responsibility and faithful service to God and others.

Students should leave Sparrows HI with an understanding of what genuine Christian leadership looks like and the courage to begin practising it.

PHILOSOPHY

Jesus modelled a radically different understanding of leadership.

Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant. — Matthew 20:26

This principle shapes the entire framework.

We seek to form leaders who are:

- humble rather than proud;
- servant-hearted rather than controlling;
- honest rather than manipulative;
- courageous rather than people-pleasing;
- accountable rather than defensive.

GRADUATE OUTCOME

By graduation, students should:

- understand biblical foundations of leadership;
- demonstrate growing servant-heartedness;
- communicate with clarity and respect;
- make wise decisions;
- accept responsibility;
- encourage others;
- contribute meaningfully to teams;
- lead in age-appropriate contexts.

THE CHARACTER OF A LEADER

Students study the character qualities that Scripture consistently affirms in leaders. These include:

- integrity;
- humility;
- courage;
- wisdom;
- self-control;
- patience;
- faithfulness;

- compassion;
- teachability.

Students regularly reflect on:

- What kind of leader am I becoming?
- Where am I growing?
- Where do I need to continue developing?

BIBLICAL MODELS OF LEADERSHIP

Moses

Courage, humility and perseverance under pressure.

David

A man after God's own heart who demonstrated both strength and deep failure. Students learn that character matters more than gifting.

Nehemiah

Vision, prayer, planning, courage and perseverance in adversity.

Esther

Courage in the face of great risk; the use of influence for others.

Daniel

Integrity and faithfulness in a culture that conflicted with biblical values.

Paul

Servant leadership; investing in the next generation; perseverance through suffering.

Jesus

The supreme model. Students study His teaching, His treatment of people, His washing of the disciples' feet and His ultimate self-giving on the cross.

COMMUNICATION

Effective leaders communicate clearly, honestly and respectfully. Students develop skills in:

- public speaking;
- listening carefully;
- asking good questions;
- giving and receiving feedback;
- respectful disagreement;
- encouraging others.

Communication exercises are woven throughout every year of the program.

DECISION-MAKING

Students learn to make decisions by:

- seeking wisdom from Scripture;
- consulting trusted advisers;
- considering others before themselves;
- acting with integrity;
- accepting responsibility for their choices.

CONFLICT AND RECONCILIATION

Healthy leaders address conflict rather than avoiding it.

Students study:

- Matthew 18 as a model for addressing conflict;
- the importance of humility;
- seeking reconciliation;
- protecting relationships without sacrificing truth.

TEAMS AND COLLABORATION

Students learn to work within teams. This includes:

- contributing their own gifts;
- valuing the gifts of others;
- encouraging team members;
- resolving disagreements;
- completing shared responsibilities.

FAILURE AND RECOVERY

All leaders make mistakes.

Students learn to:

- acknowledge failure honestly;
- seek forgiveness;
- learn and grow;
- encourage others through their own failures.

We want students to understand that failure does not disqualify them from leadership; it teaches them.

PRACTISING LEADERSHIP

Students should regularly experience age-appropriate leadership opportunities, including:

- leading prayer;
- reading Scripture publicly;
- facilitating discussion;
- coordinating service projects;
- mentoring younger students;
- planning and leading portions of gatherings;
- organising community initiatives.

Leadership grows through practice, not only through instruction.

LEARNING PROGRESSION

The program is structured across three stages of secondary education.

Years 7–8

- Character;
- responsibility;
- serving others;
- listening;
- encouraging peers.
- Emphasis: character before position.

Years 9–10

- Communication;
- decision-making;
- teams;
- biblical leadership models;
- coordinating simple initiatives.
- Students lead in small groups and projects.

Years 11–12

- Strategic planning;
- mentoring;
- public speaking;
- conflict resolution;
- vocational leadership;
- legacy.
- Students lead significant community initiatives.

LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Students should regularly participate in:

- case studies from Scripture and contemporary life;
- public speaking exercises;
- team projects;
- mentoring conversations;
- reflective journalling;
- service leadership;
- practical feedback.

Leadership development is most effective when it combines instruction, practice and reflection.

ASSESSMENT

Growth is demonstrated through:

- increasing responsibility;
- servant-heartedness;
- communication growth;
- reflective journalling;
- feedback from peers and mentors;
- quality of service leadership.

Assessment should recognise growing character alongside growing competence.

INTEGRATION

Leadership Development connects with:

- Christian Worldview;

- Biblical Literacy;
- Discipleship and Spiritual Practices;
- Service and Mission;
- Communication and Creative Arts;
- Practical Life Skills.

Every area of the Sparrows HI curriculum provides opportunities to practise and develop leadership.

OUR PRAYER

We pray that every student becomes a leader who serves faithfully, loves people genuinely and follows Christ humbly wherever God calls them.

Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.

Matthew 20:26