



Peak School

Student Led Conferences, Term 3, 2017

The purpose of Student Led Conferences is to share all elements of the student's learning and progress both academic and social. Each class (or year group) will set up stations through which children will talk about their learning in the different areas of the curriculum. Children will be at a station for approximately 8-10 minutes. During this time, they will share their work, demonstrate their understanding of a concept and/or exhibit a skill.

The main aim is to provide an opportunity for quality discussion between the student and his/her parent about their 'learning journey.' The students are encouraged to lead the conference and have ownership over sharing and discussing their learning with their parents.

Expectations

The success of the Student Led Conference is dependent on the roles that students, teachers and parents play throughout the process. The expectations to fulfill these roles are outlined below:

Students

In preparation for the conference the student will meet with the teacher to review learning and set appropriate targets and next steps which will be shared with their parents.

The students will then be responsible to share their work as evidence of their learning and also the self reflection of their learning process. The student should be proactive in explaining what they have learned, how and why the learning is important and what they need to do next.

Teachers

Teachers will be involved in supporting, guiding and preparing the students to share their portfolios and other relevant work in preparation for the conference.

The teachers do a lot of work before the Student Led Conferences with the children. On the day it is up to the children to lead not the teachers.

To ensure that the student achieves success, teachers will be available and 'visible' throughout the conference sessions in case clarification or support is needed at any point. This is an opportunity to observe the dialogue between children and parents which may provide valuable assessment data regarding the students' understanding and ability to share their progress.

In the early years the Student Led Conference may be organized more like a '3 way' conference as our younger students may need more scaffolding by the teacher. However, the aim is that as the student's progress through the years they will become more independent and eventually be able to lead the conference.

Parents

It is a school expectation that parents attend the Student Led Conference.

Parents should encourage their child to 'lead' the conference. However, they are asked to help their child to manage and balance their time between the different areas of their learning throughout the conference.

To get the best out of their child during the conference, parents should be encouraging and actively interested in their child's sharing of their learning, providing them with positive feedback and asking open ended questions such as : -

"Tell me all about your learning this term"

"Were you in the stretch zone when you did this or the comfort zone?"

"Talk me through this work sample"

"What work/learning are you most proud of?"

"Is there anything that you found difficult? Why?"

"Talk to me about your targets this term"

"How can I help you to achieve your targets?"

"Is there something that you cannot do YET?"

Please be reminded that the student led conference is a time for 'parent and child.' Although teachers will be available to support and guide the process, there will not be an opportunity during the conference to discuss individual children's progress with the teachers.