

# PREFECTS POLICY

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Within the School, the House and School Prefect system allows pupils to experience and take on roles of leadership and responsibility.

House Prefects exist in Middle and Lower School Houses to assist the staff in caring for the pupils and to act as role models. The duties and responsibilities of prefects do not in any way substitute for the presence and authority of adult teaching and non-teaching member of staff.

School Prefects, known as The Decem, are appointed to assist the staff in caring for the pupils and to act as role models. They undertake several public-facing duties, such as speaking at and welcoming families on Open Days, as well as pupil-facing duties such as speaking in and organising the seating at Chapel, Assemblies, and other whole-school and year group events. In addition, they visit Houses, run year group socials, and act as a sounding board for the Head and Senior Leadership Team (SLT) regarding the pupil experience at Oakham. The duties and responsibilities of Prefects do not in any way substitute for the presence and authority of adult teaching and non-teaching member of staff.

House Prefects are appointed by their respective Housemaster or Housemistress as a result of a combination of an interview with the Housemaster or Housemistress, House elections (advisory only), House staff consultation and the Housemaster's or Housemistress's views and observations.

Houses may assign specific areas of responsibility to their Prefects, such as Year Group Prefects; there are also guidelines to how they support the wider school, whilst remaining representatives of their House. Areas such as, Chapel, lunch queue, induction days, Open Days, school visits and more.

The Decem are appointed by the Head of Upper School and Senior Deputy Head following an application and interview process. Heads of School are appointed by the Headmaster following an advisory peer vote from the incoming Decem team and a subsequent interview with the Headmaster.

Members of the House Prefect teams will receive training appropriate to their position, including safeguarding, and all Prefects will be given written guidelines making clear their role. The guidebook issued emphasises their role in helping pupils in the House and or the School and makes clear that any problems pupils experience must be reported to the Housemaster/Housemistress or House staff and not handled by the Prefect alone.

Members of the Decem undertake a full training programme in the Summer Term following their appointment. This includes Safeguarding training, public speaking and networking seminars, and a full day of corporate training and team building with an external company, Team Thinking Ltd.

The Decem and House Prefects are **not** permitted to sanction any pupils.