

GREATER SHEPPARTON SECONDARY COLLEGE

STUDENT HOUSE ALLOCATION

Review Cycle:	2 years	Leadership Team Endorsement Date:	March 2020
Due Date of Review	March 2022		

Introduction

The formation of Greater Shepparton Secondary College has required a new approach to how students are aligned to houses. This new approach needs to support the three geographically separate campuses of GSSC (McGuire, Mooroopna and Wanganui) as they continue to operate while the new singular campus is constructed on Hawdon Street. The new House Model also needs to be suitable for a single campus to minimise disruption as students relocate to the new, merged campus upon its completion.

The House Model

What has been created is a House model for Greater Shepparton Secondary College which is best described as a *school-within-a-school*. Students are allocated to one of nine houses, which in turn have been collected into groups of three to form a *Neighbourhood*. There are three Neighbourhoods within GSSC:



The House model allows students to get to know one another and for teachers and support staff to build relationships with students and their families. The model is based on a similar model used at Dandenong High School for around 10 years, where a House becomes a student's home base for their entire schooling.

At Greater Shepparton Secondary College, approximately 50 students from each year level will be allocated to a House.

Teachers have been appointed as a Learning Mentor to groups of students to provide support to students, track learning progress, and be the main point of contact for parents or guardians. Learning Mentor Groups sit within Houses.

Classes will comprise approximately 25 students. Students in Year 7 and 8 will attend most classes with other students in their House Groups. From Year 9, students will begin each day in their Learning Mentor Group within the House and attend core classes together. They will attend elective classes with students from other houses.

The model provides stability for students, and will remain largely unchanged during GSSC's transition to the larger school site on Hawdon Street upon its completion.

Allocating Students to Houses

The House Model gives the school the flexibility to ensure that every student belongs to the house that is right for them.

Priority is given to allocating students to the same House as their siblings where possible. Some situations created by specific learning needs of students may prevent all siblings being allocated to the same house. In this case, siblings are allocated to houses within the same neighbourhood if possible. The sibling priority was observed even though siblings may attend different GSSC campuses during the transition to a single school site.

If a clash appears with an individual student's timetable and familial house allocation, precedent is given to learning outcomes. This may result in siblings allocated to different houses however, they are likely to remain within the same Neighbourhood.

House allocation for the **2020** year began with merging the student data of students from all four existing schools to be merged into GSSC (Shepparton High School, McGuire College, Wanganui Park Secondary College and Mooroopna Secondary College).

The student data provided a picture of the merged student body. A cross-match then pivoted on Year 9 students, who were allocated to Learning Mentor Groups and Houses which accommodated their elective timetable. Siblings of Year 9s have been allocated the same house where possible.

The establishment of Learning Mentor Groups in Year 7 followed a multi-faceted examination of individual students which looked at their learning needs and abilities, cultural and social strengths plus existing friendship groups and input from their Primary School teacher.

Changing House

Whilst students will generally be in the same house as their siblings, parents and students can talk to the school about finding a house that is right for their individual needs. The house model gives the school the flexibility to ensure that every student belongs to the house that is right for them. For some students, this means that they might need to try more than one house, before they feel at home. This will be part of the conversation with parents, students and College staff and needs to be considered in balance with their desired learning outcomes.