

Parent involvement in school governance policy

Policy

All Catholic schools will have in place either a Parent Engagement Network or School Advisory Council and Parents and Friends Association, as the formal means by which parents are consulted on matters relating to the operational and strategic direction of the school.

Rationale

The principal is the delegated decision-maker in all matters concerning the governance, strategy, operations and management of the school. Parent advice and support in making decisions about matters impacting on the whole school is welcomed and encouraged. This involvement is best achieved through formal, constituted bodies.

Where these bodies are most effective, the advice and support provided is focused on opportunities for all students having access to the highest quality learning and pastoral care experiences. Parent involvement in school governance contributes to a collaborative and accountable school environment that aligns with legal, regulatory and Diocesan requirements, the school's mission and the principal's leadership responsibilities.

Therefore, the principal, as the delegated leader will

- ensure all parent consultation on school governance matters is informed by the school's Catholic identity and mission
- make decisions that reflect stewardship, subsidiarity and the common good
- invite parent input while maintaining clear boundaries around decision-making authority.

Actions

- Principals are responsible for determining the parent involvement body/ies for their school in consultation with their school community.
- The parent involvement body/ies will operate in accordance with the respective model Constitution.
- The Constitution and Executive members of these bodies are to be formally approved by the Executive Director: Catholic Schools.
- The Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office will provide resources to assist in understanding of roles and responsibilities and strengthening parents' involvement in school governance.



Most Reverend Ken Howell | Bishop of Toowoomba