



COMMUNITY CONSULTATION POLICY

Rationale:

- Our school is committed to meeting the needs of the local community. In doing so, we will communicate openly and transparently with the community, seeking community input into school direction, priorities and decision making.

Aims:

- To best provide for the needs of the community by ensuring that the community is adequately consulted on all appropriate occasions.

Implementation:

- We value and actively seek community input.
- Community consultation provides alternative views, broadens perspectives and enhances the school's ability to cater for the needs of all of its students.
- Our school will strongly promote and support School Council, Parents and Friends Association, and other community groups and committees etc.
- The community will be consulted on all appropriate topics, using processes that are timely, transparent and that maximise input.
- Consultation will focus on the community groups most affected by the potential outcome.
- Consultation will be inclusive and non-discriminatory.
- Generally the community will be consulted on policymaking, school direction and planning, the formation of goals and priorities, curriculum choices and the processes such as the reporting of student progress and community learning opportunities.
- There are many operational decisions, such as individual teacher's roles, which would be inappropriate for community consultation.
- The community will be informed that consultation does not mean decision-making. Nor does it equate that decision-making will simply be based on popularity of ideas or weight of numbers.
- Consultation tools may include surveys, questionnaires, meetings or open forums.
- School Council will conduct a 'Striving for Excellence' evening every second year where parents will be invited to reflect on the achievements of the past, and to suggest improvements, projects and ideas for the future.
- Information gleaned from community consultations will be openly distributed.
- School Council will actively seek input from minority community groups, where cultural or language difficulties might otherwise inhibit their participation.
- All decisions made after community consultation will be openly communicated, as will the reasoning supporting such decisions.
- Grievance resolution procedures will be developed, promoted and implemented.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed in consultation with the whole school community as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in **October 2016**

Review Date **October 2020**