ST JOSEPH’S PRIMARY SCHOOL
TWEED HEADS

PARENT PARTICIPATION POLICY
2014

Date issued: March 2014
Date to be reviewed: 2018

RATIONALE:
Research has proven that parent participation in schools increases the chances of children’s success. Parents have as powerful an influence on achievement as any other educative factor.

Parent participation is seen as an effective way of bringing school and home into harmony. The school becomes characterized by teamwork.

It is the participation in the life of the school that is important, not the form it takes. That is it does not only mean parents come and work in the classroom. All levels of support are equally valid, and valued.

When decision-making is shared, the objectives and outcomes of schooling can become more closely related to the needs of society. The total school community is then able to take part in the responsibility for the success of each student.

SCHOOL FORUM:
The Parent Body which operates within our school community, is called the School Forum. It consists of an executive committee of elected members, which meets approximately twice per term, and a number of working sub-committees.

All school families are expected to nominate an adult for participation on at least one sub-committee. Sub committees elect a chairperson and secretary at the beginning of each year, to benefit the school, children and teachers in a variety of ways.
ST JOSEPH’S PRIMARY SCHOOL, SCHOOL FORUM VISION STATEMENT:
We are a community united by common goals. We value the collective qualities of our families. We strive to provide the best opportunities and support networks for all members, in our caring Catholic School setting. All our endeavors are based upon Gospel values.

HOME – SCHOOL LIAISON
The education of each child is a joint responsibility that is greatly enhanced by maximum co-operation of all involved. The staff of St Joseph’s are aware of their responsibility and endeavour to foster a meaningful and helpful liaison with the parents of the child.

Therefore parents are encouraged and invited to:
- Attend a parent/teacher meeting early in Term 1 to meet their child's teacher and be familiarized with class/school policy, procedure and program
- Attend meetings with the teacher to discuss the child’s progress and receive reports
- Make an appointment to see the teacher whenever it is felt necessary
- Join in the celebrations of class/school Masses, Liturgies, special events, sports day etc.
- Join in the Sacramental Programs and Personal Development Programs where the teacher assists them in their role as the first educators of their child.
- Assist at the school in whichever area they are able – classroom reading groups, art/craft, sport, canteen, library, clerical work etc. It is very beneficial to the child if he/she sees a parent taking an active role in the school when possible
- Join a school committee as part of School Forum, and support the organized activities.
- Read the weekly newsletters and other communications from the school to keep themselves informed of the activities, policies etc.
- Communicate anything that may be helpful in understanding and caring for their child. They can be assured that confidential matters remain that way
- Remember that the school exists for their children and that the full support of philosophy, policy and procedures will benefit all.
- Assist the school in whatever way they can in order to help provide the best possible education for their children.

APPOINTMENTS
Please phone, giving your reasons to make an appointment to see the Principal or members of the staff, so that a mutually convenient time can be arranged. If it is a confidential matter, please send a note. Parents are not free to approach teachers directly in cases of conflict over matters pertaining to school discipline or school policy. These matters are the Principal’s responsibility.

TELEPHONING TEACHERS:
Please avoid telephoning teachers during class time. A message may be left at the office if necessary. E mail is the best way to contact teachers other than appointments where they can respond when they are not teaching.

DISCIPLINE:
School Discipline is the function of the school community through a system of relationships, rules, rewards and sanctions designed to develop self-discipline within children. It is concerned with the needs of the individual child and his/her emotional well being. At St Joseph’s School we try to ensure that:-
• Children are aware of the discipline procedures and know exactly what is required of them in the way of acceptable behaviour
• Teachers are firm, consistent and fair in their application of discipline

We recognize the value of praise and reward as a means of stimulating acceptable behaviour. We need the support of parents in implementing our discipline policy. (Refer to Discipline Policy)