

Community and Parent PARTICIPATION Policy

Parent Participation

Parent and teacher partnerships are strongly encouraged at Mount Nelson Primary. Teachers welcome parents to be involved in class programs. Workshops and chat sessions are organized throughout the year to inform and enhance parent participation in school programs.

A teacher-parent information session is held at the start of the year. This is intended to inform parents about class programs.

Parents play an important part in school governance and fund raising through the School Association.

School Association

This association is made up of the principal, parent, teaching and non-teaching staff members.

The functions, objectives and purposes of this association are:

- to participate in the formulation and development of a set of beliefs, values and priorities for the school; and the school policies and code of conduct;
- to provide advice and recommendations to the principal in relation to the general operations and management of the school;
- to participate on the selection panel in respect of any advertised permanent vacancy for the position of principal;
- to foster cooperation among teachers, students, members, parents and the community;
- to provide advice and recommendations to the DoE Secretary on any matter relating to policy;
- to approve the school budget;
- to undertake any other function the Minister may determine in accordance with Section 27 of the *Education Act*.

This Association also has the power to:

- carry out trading activities not relating to education for the benefit of the school (uniform, canteen)
- provide, or assist in the provision of, financial or other resources or services for the benefit of the school.

Any members of the Association (parents/carers) may attend committee meetings as observers.

PROTOCOLS FOR PARENT HELPERS AT SCHOOL

School Perspective:

- Parent help is highly valued at Mount Nelson, both in class and with activities such as excursions, canteen, banking, uniform pool, sports' teams and book club.
- We are aware of the demands on parents' time and will ensure activities undertaken are mutually beneficial.
- Department of Education protocols for the supervision of children will be followed in order to protect both the students and the parent helpers.
- Parents who accompany children on camp will require a police check.

- Parents who volunteer to assist with school based activities during regular school hours will require a police check. All required paperwork will be given to parents at, or prior to, their first session.
- Parents who volunteer as sports' coaches out of school hours will require a police check.
- Parents will receive appropriate guidance and training when required.
- Parents will not be placed in a situation that can lead to litigation.
- Teachers would appreciate prior notice if a parent is unable to attend a planned session.
- The art teacher would welcome support on Thursdays and Fridays.

Parent Perspective:

- It is deemed a privilege to work with other people's children.
- All interactions with children at school are deemed confidential. It is up to the teacher to pass on information to parents regarding their child at school. If a parent helper feels something needs to be shared, they must go through the teacher. The handling or touching of any student, (other than their own child) is prohibited, even if the person is well known to the child's family.
- If a parent stays on in the playground during a recreation break, the same rule applies. When working in a classroom, parents are asked to respect the working climate of the classroom and maintain a 'professional' manner at all times.
- If a parent has a particular talent or interest, teachers welcome hearing about it. Parents are asked to sign in and out at the office and wear a visitor's badge while assisting at school.