



## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS POLICY

### Rationale

- Positive community partnerships greatly enhance the ability of schools to provide for the needs of students, and contribute significantly to the potential for parents/carers and community groups to impact positively on the lives of young people.

### Aims

- To develop our school as a focal point of the community, with opportunities for both the school and community members to gain from mutually beneficial arrangements.

### Implementation

- Our school values, and actively seeks, community partnerships and input.
- We will have an active School Council characterised by an effective sub-committee structure.
- We seek open communication, with broad community consultation.
- We will develop community-based policies to maximise input and opportunities.
- A Parents and Friends Association will be formed and supported by the school.
- Parents/carers will be surveyed annually as to their preferences regarding professional development and school involvement.
- Opportunities for parent/carer and community involvement will be identified and a strategic plan developed to maximise parental/carer involvement.
- Opportunities for parental/carer involvement will be advertised regularly in the school newsletter and on our website.
- Professional development opportunities will be expanded to include parents/carers, so as to capitalise upon, and 'add value' to the support that they provide.
- Parents/carers of non-English speaking backgrounds will be actively encouraged to be involved with the school.
- The School Council will actively seek input from minority community groups, where cultural or language difficulties might otherwise inhibit their participation.
- Child minding arrangements will be explored to maximise parental/carer involvement.
- Curriculum activities can be enhanced by community participation, or by school excursions to involve 'first hand' experiences.
- Potential partnerships will be explored with local government, industry and community service groups with the view to maximising opportunities for students to learn from, and to be active participants within the wider school community.
- A deliberate strategy to develop partnerships with agencies that can support or benefit the school will be employed. Departmental expectations regarding partnerships and sponsorships will be met at all times.
- Sponsorships that comply with Departmental and school policies will be actively encouraged.

### Evaluation

- This policy will be reviewed annually as part of the school's three-year review cycle, in consultation with all members of the wider school community.