

# St. Dominic's School Melton

## Parents and Teachers as Partners in Education

### DEFINITION

Partnership involves parents and teachers working together and supporting each other in the best interest of the child.

### RATIONALE

Parents, as first educators, and teachers as professional educators, have a distinctive role to play in the ongoing development of the child. Therefore, it is necessary to clearly identify the roles of parents and teachers in the education process.

### BELIEFS

At St. Dominic's we believe that as partners, parents and teachers will endeavour to:

- work together for the benefit of the child
- work towards common goals and a shared vision
- trust and be honest with one another
- communicate openly
- show mutual respect
- co-operate and support each other
- develop an awareness of each other's needs
- recognise the expertise each has to offer.

### ROLES

Teachers will endeavour to:

- acknowledge and value the contribution of all parents
- listen and talk to parents
- encourage parent participation through a clear protocol for school / classroom interaction
- encourage and utilise parents' expertise
- offer opportunities for parents to experience and develop an understanding of the changing face of education.

Parents at St. Dominic's will endeavour to:

- acknowledge and value the contribution of teachers as professional educators
- listen and talk to teachers
- participate in the life of the school adhering to school and classroom protocol
- recognise and support school policies and practices
- foster a positive attitude at home towards staff, students and the wider school community
- discuss / clarify any concerns as they arise with relevant staff, Principal, Deputy Principal or School Advisory Board Representative.

### IMPLEMENTATION

Keeping each other informed through:

- Bulletins and Newsletters
- Unit Reports
- Diaries
- Homework Books
- Parent / Teacher Interviews
- Informal Discussions
- Parent Information Sessions
- School Advisory Board Reports.

Joining together to see and to hear through:

- Displays
- Visiting Speakers
- Parent Welcoming Group Activities
- Special Theme Days
- Liturgies
- Assemblies.

Joining together to implement the decision making process through:

- Seeking feedback eg. Questionnaires
- Parent / Teacher Discussions
- Open Forums on Educational Topics
- School Advisory Board - make recommendations to Principal and Parish Priest regarding policy formulation related to school development and direction.

Being part of the life of the school through activities such as:

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| • Reading Programs                             | • Writing            |
| • Maths  | • Science            |
| • Drama  | • Technology         |
| • Art and Craft                                | • Library Assistance |
| • Perceptual Motor Program                     | • Computers          |
| • Excursions                                   | • Book Club          |
| • Special Theme Days                           | • Cooking            |
| • Sport Activities                             | • Language Games     |
| • Maintenance and Ground Improvement Committee | • School Banking     |
| • Parent Welcoming Group                       |                      |
| • Fundraising Committee                        |                      |
| • Working Bees                                 |                      |

## **St. Dominic's School Parent Helpers**

The participation of parents in school activities is greatly valued at St. Dominic's Primary School, Melton. Parent helpers are required to complete the Parent Helpers Training Program before working in classrooms. The program covers:

- Role of a helper
- Confidentiality
- Reading & Oral Language Skills
- Writing Skills

Once trained parents are timetabled to classrooms.

Parents willing to assist with activities outside of the classroom will meet with the teacher organising the activity to discuss expectations, confidentiality and clarify their role in the activity.