

# 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 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 have an active School Council characterised by a sub-committee structure.
- We seek open communication, with broad community consultation.
- A Parents and Friends Association will be formed and supported by the school.
- Parents will be surveyed annually as part of the DET Parent Opinion Survey.
- Opportunities for parent and community involvement will be identified and a strategic plan developed to maximise parental involvement.
- Opportunities for parental involvement will be advertised regularly in the school newsletter and on our website.
- Professional development opportunities will be expanded to include parents, so as to capitalise upon, and 'add value' to the support that they provide.
- Parents of non-English speaking backgrounds will be actively encouraged to be involved with the school if the need arises.
- School Council will actively seek input from minority community groups, where cultural or language difficulties might otherwise inhibit their participation when applicable.
- Child minding arrangements will be explored to maximise parental 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.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

**August 2015**