

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION POLICY

PURPOSE

- To enhance learning by establishing a responsive and effective partnership with the community.
- To inform and seek involvement of the school's community in activities and practices within the school.
- To encourage community and staff commitment by building on existing networks and structures and/or establish new groups or networks.
- This school has a commitment to making consultation with the community a realistic, satisfying and sustainable process. It sees consultation as a major step in developing a collaborative relationship with the community.

GUIDELINES

- A welcoming, warm school atmosphere, acknowledging the value of parents' support and partnership should be developed.
- Opportunities to encourage parents to visit and communicate with the school should be fostered.
- Efficient processes for gathering, collating, analyzing and reporting information and opinions are a prerequisite of effective consultation.
- Consideration should be given to using culturally appropriate styles and venues in the local community to meet with parents.
- The school should be responsive to changing methods of communication.
- Consultation should be an ongoing part of school life, rather than a series of unrelated additional tasks.
- For effective consultation, the school must:
 - Ensure the parties involved fully understand the consultation process;
 - Develop a commitment from those involved;
 - Select meaningful issues to work on;
 - Draw on people's strengths and interests;
 - Give people prompt feedback and well-publicised and constructive action.
- Efficient processes for gathering, collating, analyzing and reporting information and opinions are a prerequisite of effective consultation.
- Consideration should be given to using culturally appropriate styles and venues in the local community to meet with parents.
- The school should be responsive to changing methods of communication.

SELF REVIEW

- This policy will be reviewed annually along with all other school policies.
- Responsibility for review of this policy will be held by the Board of Trustees and Senior Management Staff.