

## **School Council Code of Practice**

The parents, teachers, principal, teacher's aides, office staff and students at Brunswick East Primary School work cooperatively to ensure the provision of the best learning opportunities for the students in our care and to work towards the achievement of our vision. All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing so, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides to its students.

To achieve this Brunswick East Primary School Council and its subcommittees will operate within agreed Standing Orders and will operate within the Education Act (1958) and all other government legislation and guidelines including DE&T Regulations 2000. The Standing Orders will ensure school council operates effectively and allows everyone to contribute to high quality democratic decision-making. Standing orders will be made available to councillors at the beginning of each year. It is expected that members of the school council will abide by these standing orders and the following code of conduct.

The underlying principles of the school council code of conduct include the promotion of:

- Respectful **partnerships**
- Clear and honest two way **Communication**
- **Transparency** of processes
- Democratic, informed **decision making**

## **School Council members will:**

- Represent all members of school community by regularly seeking their views and opinions, especially when major policies are being developed.
- Ensure that the mission, vision and values of the school be the primary consideration in decision-making.
- Regularly monitor achievements of charter goals and priorities.
- Approve and monitor the school budget.
- Practise democratic processes including natural justice when resolving disagreements and when making decisions.
- Respect and value each other's ideas and opinions.
- Represent the diversity of the school community in the decisions made by school council.
- Maintain confidentiality where there are matters of a personal nature relating to staff, students and parents.

- Exercise high levels of integrity, professionalism and loyalty to the agreed goals of the school.
- Actively participate in subcommittees and meetings set by council.

*School Council Roles and Responsibilities are documented in the publication "Making the Partnership Work." (DE&T 2001)*

## **Community Building**

### **Through community involvement and support for the school:**

- Develop and implement educational programs that are relevant, challenging and purposeful for all our students;
- Promote academic excellence;
- Provide a broad and comprehensive curriculum;
- Create opportunities for exploration and development of individual interests and abilities of students;
- Create an environment in which a sense of belonging and team membership is fostered;
- Ensure a safe, supportive environment;
- Provide appropriate help for children with special needs; and
- Recognize cultural and social diversity in our community.

### **Our parents have the right to:**

- Expect the school to provide high quality teaching and learning for their child without prejudice or discrimination;
- Have an opportunity to contribute to the development of their child at school;
- Expect their child's physical and emotional well being to be maintained at school;
- Be informed of any concerns regarding their child's behaviour;
- Receive feedback about a child's progress at school; and
- Receive regular communication from the school about issues of concern (eg. injuries), school activities, information evenings, and regular school newsletters.

### **Our parents have the responsibility to:**

- Participate where possible, in school life eg. School council, fundraisers, school concerts and special events;
- Be aware of school policies and procedures;
- Respect the views and interests of staff, students and parents within the school community;
- Respect cultural and social diversity within our community; and
- Consider the wider interests of the school community.