

Parent Participation Policy Brighton Primary School 1542

Purpose

Parent participation is an integral part of our school culture. It enhances both student learning and school decision-making through:

- Working cooperatively with teachers
- Participation in School Council and associated committees
- Supporting fundraising activities
- Utilising particular qualities and talents of the community
- Assisting at Working Bees

Guidelines

- Confidentiality should be maintained at all times
- Parents will be encouraged to participate in specific training programs associated with classroom programs
- Assistance with excursions, sporting events and whole school activities will be encouraged
- Participation in policy development and decision making will be encouraged through the School Council, Education, Marketing, Facilities, Finance, Parents Association and BPOSH sub committees
- It is encouraged that a register of parent skills be maintained
- Parent participation within school programs will be at the discretion of the school
- Parents who are working with students in any capacity will need a current 'Working with Children Check'

Implementation

- Parents are invited to participate in school life, both formally and informally, through volunteering to assist with literacy and numeracy programs, school council and committees and parent associations
- The school will provide the opportunity for parents to be trained in programs such as the Early Years Parent Helpers' Course
- Teachers will advise parents of excursions and incursions and request assistance if required
- Parents will be encouraged to join committees
- Parents working within the school will need to follow the school's visitors procedures
- Coordinators of programs requiring parental assistance will organise the allocation of parents within each program
- Some programs may be unable to be offered without sufficient parent support

Evaluation

- A computer generated random sample of parents will be surveyed annually as part of the Parent Opinion Survey
- Team leaders will undertake an annual review of parent participation programs.

Below is a sample list.

Appendix 1: Opportunities for Parent and Community Participation

Activity	
Morning Reading	In grades Prep – 2, morning reading is a part of our literacy block each morning. Parents can assist by listening to children in their child’s class read.
Literacy & Numeracy Helpers	Assisting in the classroom during literacy and numeracy sessions. This may involve taking a small group or roaming between groups in class. For literacy helpers, training is encouraged and provided free of charge.
Guest Speakers	Parents are encouraged to check curriculum outlines and make contact with their classroom teacher if they would like to share their expertise.
Student Support Group Meetings (SSG’s)	These meetings are held for students who are funded by the Department of Education for students with learning difficulties. The meetings are attended by relevant staff members and the parent of the student.
Parent Teacher Interviews	These interviews are conducted at school twice a year at a mutually agreed time between parents and classroom teachers.
Information Nights	Information Nights are hosted by each year level during term 1. The purpose of these is to give parents an overview of the curriculum, milestone events, calendar and individual classroom procedures. There may be others for special events eg. Camp, sexuality education, as required by the year level.
Exhibition/mini-exhibition	Each year level has an assigned day of the year where students share their portfolios and learning with their parents.

Activity	
Excursions and Camps	Assist teaching staff with general supervision of children at excursion / camp activities. In order to meet student-adult ratios, parent helpers are required on excursions and camps.
Sporting Events	Sporting events are held throughout the year. These include cross-country, athletics, swimming and inter-school sports. Parents are required to travel with teams for supervision and to undertake a variety of roles on the day. On occasion, a small group may need to be driven in private cars to and from events
Bike Education	Assist with the running of this program. Tasks include conducting safety checks of bikes prior to the program and supervision when students are riding inside and outside of school grounds.
Weekly Assemblies	Assembly is run each Monday morning and parents are welcome to attend.
Library Assistants	Parent help is required through the year to help with covering books, (which can be done at home), and shelving of books during busy periods.
Transition	Prep parents of the current year hold an morning tea for the parents of the following years Prep class on the first transition session.
100 Days of Prep	The Prep and Performing Arts teams organise a ‘100 Days of Prep’ assembly to celebrate this achievement. Parents are invited to attend.
Italian Day	Parental assistance is needed in the canteen for the distribution of pizza.
School Production	A biannual event organised by our Music and Performing Arts teacher, along with Grade 4 and 5 teachers and support from other staff. Parents can assist with costumes, props and a variety of jobs with the dress rehearsal and on the performance nights.
Film Festival	A biannual event for grades 3 and 4. Parents are required to help on filming days, as well as encouraged to attend the film showcase.

Activity	
School Council	All Victorian Government Schools are required to have a School Council which acts as the governance of the school. Eight parent members and four staff members are elected to their position. These members convene the sub-committees and deal with a variety of school matters.
Sub-Committees	Parents are invited to be members of the following committees; Education, Facilities, Finance, and PR and Communications. These committees also involve staff members.
Friends of Brighton	Friends of Brighton, (FOB), is a parent committee whose primary function is organising events to fundraise for the school. FOB team members coordinate parents to assist with organising the various events across the year.
Grade Representatives	Each class has grade representatives who organise functions and facilitate communication between families.
Working Bees	Working Bees are conducted at the school every term.

For further information please see

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/involve/Pages/parent.aspx>

Related Policies: Volunteers Policy.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in 2017

To be reviewed in 2021