



In this note you will find information about our upcoming School Council election process. The process will commence today, February 14th, with the call for nominations in the parent, DET and community categories. Nominations will close on Tuesday 21st February.

To nominate for School Council, you can download a nomination form from our website or ask for a hard copy at our reception. All nominations must be accepted by the 21st of February. As this a very important part of our school, I have listed some common questions and answers relating to our School Council.

We have 3 Parent category member positions available for 2017.

What is a School Council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a School Council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the School Council?

For most School Councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

A mandated elected Parent category – more than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not employed at the school.

A mandated elected DEECD employee category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of School Council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

An optional Community member category – members are coopted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is about two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual School Council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on School Councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a School Council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider:

- standing for election as a member of the School Council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on School Council?

No. What you need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

Remember

- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

Please contact either myself or Kay Willmott if you would like to know more.

School Council currently meets on the third Monday of each month at 6.00 pm. It is very important that if you nominate for Council, that you are able to attend these meetings.

Regards