

Wantirna South Primary School

Community Consultation Policy

Rationale:

Wantirna South Primary School is committed to meeting the needs of the school community. In doing so, we will communicate openly and transparently with the community, seeking community input into school direction, priorities and decisions making.

Aims:

Based on this rationale the expectations of the policy are to:-

- To best provide for the needs of the community by ensuring that the community is adequately consulted on all appropriate occasions.

Implementation:

Consistent with these aims this policy shall be implemented according to the following guidelines:-

- We value and actively seek school community input.
- This occurs through School Council and Parents Association, as well as other community groups and committees.
- Community consultation provides alternative views, broadens perspectives and enhances the school's ability to cater for the needs of all of its students.
- The community will be consulted on all appropriate topics, using processes that are timely, transparent and that maximise input. Consultation tools may include surveys, questionnaires, meetings or open forums.
- The 'Open Door' policy within our school provides opportunities for all the community at any time to meet with the Principal and staff.
- Generally the community will be consulted on policymaking, school direction and planning, the formation of goals and priorities, curriculum choices and the processes such as the reporting of student progress and community learning opportunities.
- There are many operational decisions, such as individual teacher's roles, which would be inappropriate for community consultation.
- Consultation will focus on the community groups most affected by the potential outcome.
- Consultation will be inclusive and non-discriminatory in accordance with our legal obligations.
- School Council will actively seek input from minority community groups, where cultural or language difficulties might otherwise inhibit their participation.
- The community will be informed that consultation does not mean decision-making. Nor does it equate that decision-making will simply be based on popularity of ideas or weight of numbers.
- Information gleaned from community consultations will be openly distributed.
- All decisions made after community consultation will be openly communicated, as will the reasoning supporting such decisions.
- Grievance resolution procedures will be developed, promoted and implemented.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed in consultation with the whole school community as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy will be ratified by School Council on April 2016.