

Role of the College Council

The College Council's role is to establish and monitor systems and processes to set strategic direction; establish the purpose, values, goals and objectives of the college; identify and manage risk; manage performance expectations and monitor achievement against these.

The role of the College Council fits into five broad areas. The College Council is responsible for establishing, implementing and monitoring policy in relation to each of these areas.

- Strategic development
- Financial leadership and management
- College Council-Principal relationships, including the appointment of the Principal
- Provision of facilities and resources
- Risk management and compliance

These five areas are discussed below:

Strategic Development

Strategies in these areas reflect the mission and values of the college. They will drive the eventual outcomes of the college and will pervade all actions of the College Council. Focus on these directions will assist the College Council to look outward and forward and to ensure that the college is well placed to adapt to changing market and educational forces.

Perhaps the greatest contribution a college council can make to a college is to identify and enunciate its desired future. It is the College Council which must ultimately determine the vision for the college. The College Council with the Principal decides collaboratively what matters most in the long-term success of the college.

Financial Leadership and Management

Policies in this area set out the degree of control the College Council exercises over the operations of the college. Policies in this area relate to ensuring that the college is being run as planned and within the legal and legislative frameworks that apply. The policies relate to the means employed by the Principal and staff to achieve the ends established by the College Council and set within the relevant legislative framework. It is inappropriate to think that the College Council can, or should, keep track of every complexity of the day-to-day running of the college.

College Council-Principal Relationships

The Principal is responsible to the College Council as a whole, not the individuals or sub-committees. The College Council delegates to the Principal its duties and powers with regard to discipline, courses of study, selection and management of staff, and college activities generally.

This is a key point and the cornerstone of the independence of the Principal. Historically, the term 'independent school' refers to the independence of the head to lead and manage these areas, with reference only to the law, the mission and the values set out by the College Council.

Provision of Facilities and Resources

This includes buildings, plant, equipment and finances. Policies in this area relate to ensuring that the college is well provided in facilities and staffing to carry out its mission and achieve its goals. The College Council is responsible from time-to-time for preparing strategic directions and policies for the college in planning its resources. The College Council will periodically prepare a master plan to give a future framework for the physical development of the college.

Risk Management and Compliance

The College Council must identify and evaluate the principle risks faced by the college and ensure that appropriate compliance systems are in place to avoid or mitigate those risks.