

School Council Policy

1. The School Council is the body where topics relevant to the school as a whole are discussed and opinions exchanged. In addition, it has the task of promoting the interaction of school management, teachers, parents and students as well as mediating, advising, discussing and adopting matters that are essential for the school.
2. The School Council may provide the Principal and other committees (in accordance with the applicable policies) with suggestions and recommendations. A recommendation must be considered and then dealt with at the next meeting of the relevant group or committee.
3. The School Council must be consulted on the following:
 - a. decisions of the Teacher's Conference about general education/teaching matters in the school
 - b. before establishing/termination of an educational trial
 - c. before changing the type or character of the school, division or amalgamation of the school, extension or abolishment of the school
 - d. approval of scientific research projects at the school
 - e. decisions relating to changes to the school's educational and disciplinary measures.
4. The following matters are discussed in the School Council and require its consent:
 - a. general decisions relating to class assessments and homework
 - b. principles on conduct of extra-curricular events (such as school camps)
5. The Board of Directors has the option to consult with the School Council on decisions which directly impact groups or other committees within the school.
6. In case the School Council refuses to agree to the outlined matters stated in paragraph 4 and if the Teacher's Conference has after repeated consultation maintained their decision, the Principal has the power to approve and decide the outcome.
7. The School Council consists of the following:
 - a. The Principal as Chairman
 - b. The Chairperson of the Parents Representative Council as Deputy Chair
 - c. Two representatives from the teaching staff
 - d. One additional representative from the parent body
 - e. Two student representatives

- f. One representative from the non-teaching staff
- 8. The Chairman is responsible for inviting all committee members and preparing an agenda for each meeting. The dates for all meetings within a school year should be agreed upon during the first meeting of a year.
- 9. The Teacher's Conference, Parent Representative Council, Student Representative Council and members from the non-teaching staff each choose their representatives and their deputies. The representatives of these various bodies must be elected for at least one year; more specific provisions on electoral rules are to be set by each applicable body.

The Deputy Principal will act for the Principal (in his absence); if the Deputy Principal is elected as member of the "School Council", his/her deputy takes his/her place. The Chairperson of the Parent Representative Council will act as Chair for the "School Council" in absence of the Principal.

Members of the "School Council" are free in their vote from instructions and orders.

The "School Council" shall decide by a majority of two thirds of its members present, also requiring a majority of all members with voting rights.

- 10. Meetings of the "School Council" are not public. These matters are deemed confidential, as far as it concerns facts which need to be treated confidentially. Facts that involve or may violate a student's, parent's or employee's rights must be treated with utmost confidentiality. In addition, the "School Council" can determine the confidentiality of individual agenda items. A breach of confidentiality of a school employee will be dealt with under employment regulations. A breach of confidentiality of other members of the "School Council" may lead to a temporary or permanent suspension of this member from the "School Council" – such a measure requires a two thirds majority of the "School Council". In the case of a suspension their deputy will act in their role.
- 11. The "School Council" should meet once per term, or at least every six months. A meeting is to be convened, if at least a quarter of its members requests such a meeting or if the Principal calls a meeting providing the topic(s) to be discussed.
- 12. This policy will come into effect after approval from all bodies concerned i.e. Personnel, Student, and Parents Representative Councils, as well as the Board of Directors.
One year after this initial inception, all bodies must again vote on this policy. If at least one body refuses to approve the policy, the policy must be amended until consent of all bodies is achieved.
- 13. The "School Council" must conform to all the relevant Australian regulations.
- 14. The Board can overrule a decision of the "School Council" if it is detrimental to the school's interests and/or aims.

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