

1. RATIONALE

Parent participation in education facilitates the partnership between the school community and the home life of students. This partnership benefits children in supporting their sense of belonging. Doncaster Primary School will provide opportunities for parents and community volunteers to become an integral part of school life.

2. AIMS

- 2.1 To strengthen the interaction between parents in the school community.
- 2.2 To strengthen the partnership that parents and the school have in providing an excellent learning environment for children at Doncaster Primary School.
- 2.3 To provide different levels of involvement and opportunities for parents to participate in the education of their children.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

- 3.1 Ensure that parents are aware of the many ways they can be involved in the school:
 - 3.1.1 **Monitor** – monitor progress of the child, i.e. Parent / Teacher interviews
 - 3.1.2 **Observer** – attend special days / celebrations
 - 3.1.3 **Learner** – acquire skills by attending education programs and using curriculum information to support students, as in Classroom Helpers or Information evenings
 - 3.1.4 **Assistant** – help in classrooms and on excursions
 - 3.1.5 **Instructor** – share skills and coaching
 - 3.1.6 **Decision maker** – active involvement in formal decision making structures and processes of the school, i.e. School Council and subcommittee, Parent Representatives
 - 3.1.7 **Supporter** – act positively to support all of the above regardless of whether they can be involved
The level and frequency of parent involvement may be dependent on the types and duration of programs, activities and the commitment of helpers, eg: on one-off, short term, special events or ongoing.
- 3.2 The Parent Involvement handbook, titled “Parent & Community Volunteer Manual”, provides expectations and guidelines for working in Doncaster Primary School, which cover the following areas:
 - 3.2.1 Ethics and confidentiality
 - 3.2.2 Legal liability and associated matters ~ **All Parent Helpers must have completed a ‘Working with Children Check’. A photocopied receipt of this document will be kept on record in the school office.**
 - 3.2.3 Learning Community Model and guiding values that comprise the Doncaster Primary School Core Purpose Statement
- 3.3 Provision for the training and education of parents, to ensure successful involvement will be met, by Principal Class teachers
- 3.4 Parent Helpers are required to report to the office upon arrival at Doncaster Primary School, sign in the Visitors Book, collect ‘Visitor’ badge (which must be worn at all times) and report directly to the teacher they are assisting. When no longer required by the teacher they will return to the office to sign out of the Visitors Book and return the ‘Visitor’ badge.
- 3.5 Expressions of interest will be sought from parents who wish to participate in class and / or school activities at the start of the year or prior to an event or activity.
- 3.6 It is incumbent on school staff to ensure that parent volunteers are familiar with both this policy and the “Parent & Community Volunteer Manual”.
- 3.7 Acknowledgement and celebration of Parent involvement.
- 3.8 This policy supports our understanding of a Learning Community and underpins the Core Purpose Statement and guiding values of Doncaster Primary School.

4. BUDGET

Refer to the School Budget.

5. EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed every three years