

CHURCHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL



Parents

&

Friends



Research shows that effective schools have high levels of parental and community involvement and this involvement is strongly related to improved student learning and attendance as well as behaviour.

Family involvement in schools is therefore central to high quality education; it is part of the core business of schools.

What are the functions of Parents & Friends?

The functions of a Parents Association are as diverse as the children within it. However, as a guideline they may include;

- Participating in/ or provide opportunity for consultation and collaboration between all groups within the school community.
- Undertaking fundraising activities either to meet agreed financial commitments and/ or provide facilities for the students and school.
- Promoting a sense of community spirit within the school through the organising of parent and community functions and events.
- Publicising roles, activities, membership of the group through regular lines of communication.
- Liaising and co-operating with other groups (eg the school council) involved in maintenance of the school buildings and grounds through working bees, rosters etc.
- Assisting the Principal, in any manner that may be mutually decided upon in the Association, with the day to day running of the school
- Sharing responsibility, where appropriate, for the management of secondary school functions such as uniform shop or canteen in collaboration with the school administration and the school council.
- Providing a support network that offers help with events like Sports Days, Guest Speaker nights
- Liaising with and communicating to the school community relevant information supplied by the Council.
- Contributing, as and if requested to by the school council or Principal, to policies of the school including, Finance, Uniform, Curriculum, Education and Sport.
- Supporting new families or families in crisis.
- Offering support to new families or families in crisis.
- Participating in or providing the opportunity for consultation and collaboration between all groups within the school community.
- Looking for ways to improve, from the parents view, the family/school partnership.



Will Parents & Friends really make a difference?

Parents and Friends Groups can add much value to their children's school community.

They offer-

- Advocacy
- Passion and commitment through devotion and dedication.
- Tireless effort- when there is high input from parent volunteers, research shows that the benefits to their children are increased.
- Trades and Services from the parent body
- Local knowledge
- Professional advice
- An outside perspective (freedom from organisational constraints)
- Community Outreach to organisation such as The Parents Council, even further supporting the school community.
- An opportunity to build a unique community reflecting the values of our school community.

Parents and Friends aims to provide an opportunity for parents to connect, make friends, learn more about what is going on at your child's school, raise funds for school projects, support families in crisis or new families, just to name some of the things we will strive to achieve.

When there is a high level of parental involvement in a school, the student's results are better. Building a strong community requires a 'hub' and Parents and Friends will hopefully take on this role.

Parents also have a responsibility to partner with their chosen school in the education of their children. Involvement in the school is crucial to this responsibility.

“ Family-School Partnerships are collaborative relationships and activities involving school staff, parents and other family members of students at a school. Effective partnerships are based on mutual trust and respect, and shared responsibility for the education of children and young people at the school”.