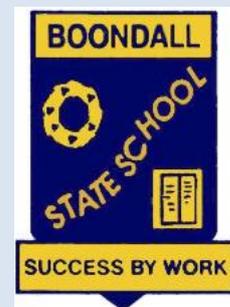


Boondall State School

Parent and Community Engagement Framework



PURPOSE

This framework identifies what Boondall State School and the community does to strengthen learning outcomes for students through the use of communication, learning partnerships, community collaboration, decision-making and participation.

INTRODUCTION

The education of our students is a shared responsibility, benefiting all students, our society and economy as a whole. Therefore, parents and broader communities have a reciprocal responsibility to engage with schools.

Schools are better able to support student achievement by developing strong engagement with and between:

- Students
- Teachers
- Parents and Carers
- Support staff
- Community industry and business groups



COMMUNICATION

Effective communication between schools, parents, the community and students forms the foundation of developing and maintaining partnerships. To have a significant impact on student outcomes, communication needs to be focused on student learning. It must also be a genuine exchange of information and ideas between the school, the home and the community.

For example:

- Schools seek advice from parents about their children's needs and aspirations
- Parents and teachers keep each other informed about students' progress
- Community members and groups share their unique knowledge and perspectives

Boondall State School effectively communicates through:

- School website
- School fortnightly newsletter and newsflashes about events
- Daily absence SMS
- Interviews with all new families on arrival at Boondall State School
- Parent handbook provided to all families
- Weekly assembly and celebrations of learning events e.g. MADD Night, Christmas Concert
- Parent teacher interviews offered each semester Scheduled by appointment, open door time established by teachers at the beginning of the year for parent contact
- Use of interpreters

LEARNING PARTNERSHIPS

Learning is not limited to the classroom. The beliefs, expectations and experience of parents is a powerful determinant of student achievement. Understanding the school, home and community contribution to student learning helps cultivate a holistic learning environment.

Boondall State School forms learning partnerships by:

- P & C committee, School Council and PACE committee
- Working with parents to identify and meet specific learning goals
- Communicating clear expectations regarding homework
- Communicating clear, concise explanations of RISE expectations
- workshops for parents
- Parent nights and classroom newsletters each term

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Students bring their personal interests, cultural backgrounds and past experiences to their learning. Schools that recognise and work with the local community are able to create learning environments that motivate and engage students by making learning real and relevant. Community members and organisations offer unique knowledge, expertise and perspectives that schools can use to make learning more authentic and connected.

Boondall State School collaborates with the community by:

- Utilising more of the community's skills through:
 - Two way partnerships
 - Encourage businesses to sponsor our sporting teams etc.
 - Work experience from local high school
 - Year 6 high school immersion programs
- Inviting guest speakers→drug education/bullying/mindfulness/social skills
- Partner with sports development officers to provide sports opportunities for students
- Networks with feeder kindergartens – offer access to free professional development
- Continue to build partnerships with local real estate agents to assist with the promotion of Boondall State School

DECISION-MAKING

Including parents/caregivers and the community in school decision-making is critical to effective parent and community engagement. Providing opportunities for relevant consultation ensures decisions reflect local needs, whether for an individual student or the school as a whole. Greater community ownership and trust of school directions and decisions can be developed through open and authentic consultation.

Boondall State School ensures decision-making is consultative through:

- School Council meetings 6 times a year for strategic direction, planning and review
- Monthly P&C meetings
- Consultation processes to ensure open and honest dialogue and a culture of respect for all stakeholders
- Acknowledging and responding to parent feedback
- Building a sense of community through social events
- Multiple modes of participation to ensure optimum engagement

PARTICIPATION

Well scaled and widespread parent and community participation can contribute to school improvement in a number of ways, including:

- Sending clear signals to students about the value of education
- Ensuring school decisions are broadly representative of the school community
- Ensuring school activities and actions are respectful and representative of local cultures
- Building mutual commitment with families to take action in the home to support learning at school
- Enabling teachers and school leaders to access expertise and perspectives that support curriculum

Boondall State School encourages participation through:

- Calendar with all events on the school website
- Thanking volunteers in newsletters
- Volunteers morning tea annually
- Encouraging volunteers into our school
- Consistent messages shared on assembly, in the newsletter and in each classroom