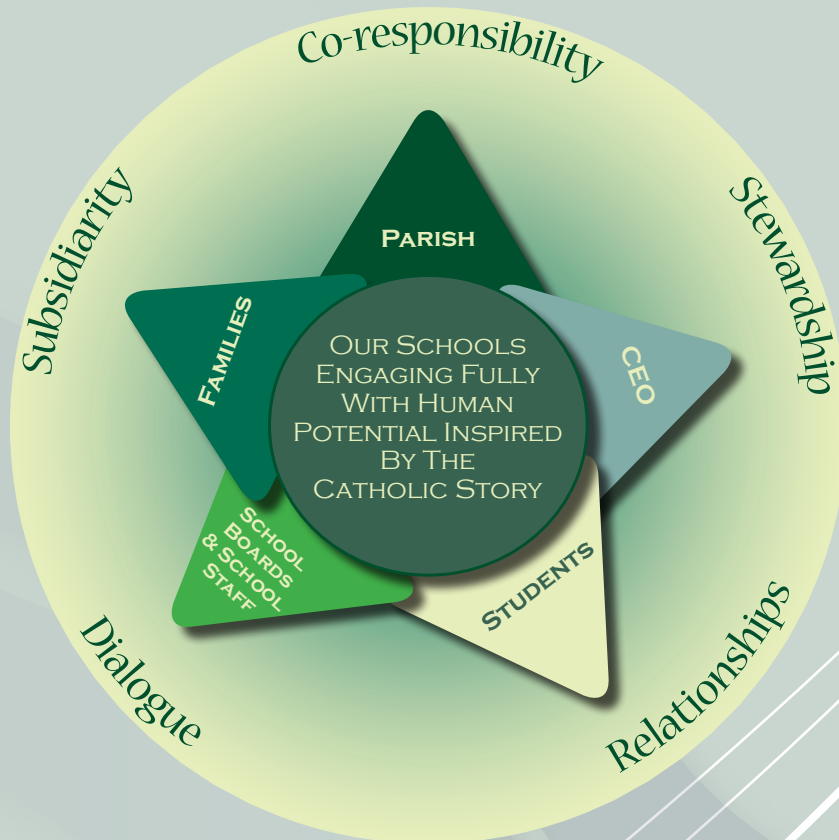


# Catholic Education Sandhurst

## Parent Leadership and Family Engagement Strategy



## Schools without Borders

A strategy to support the empowerment of all families and teachers within school communities to build every child's **achievement, life chances and spirit of service.**

*"I have come that you all have life and have it abundantly"*

(John 10:10)

# Goal:

Shaping a culture of hope filled communities  
Faith in every student - Faith in every family

## Key Action

**Build understanding of the family's role in each child's development, wellbeing and life chances**

**Build community - the *Body of Christ***

**Build an understanding of family and school shared responsibilities**

## Strategies

- Examine practices which promote positive family/teacher relationships across school life
- Review enrolment practice to engage the family before, during and after the enrolment process
- Examine transition practice to optimise family participation and understanding:
  - Pre-school to school
  - Primary to secondary
  - Annual transitions
- Welcoming process for families and new staff led by school and parent leaders in partnership with the Parish Priest/Canonical Administrator
- Engaging Faith development programs for families including Sacramental Preparation
- Develop mutual support networks within and across schools
- Creating a variety of accessible social opportunities for all
- School leadership and School Board reflecting on: "What the school and family can do for each other"
- Build skills in "community conversations"
- Deciding on key areas of local action

**Key Leadership:** Principals - Parish Priests - School Boards - Families

## Resources:

**Professionals in:** *education - health - community development - pastoral care and wellbeing*

**Key influences across Diocese including:**

*CEO - Parent Engagement Officer - Education Consultants/Interdisciplinary Service Teams*

**Other Schools:** *experiences/programs/networks*

**Sandhurst School Education Board:** *parent representatives/board chair gatherings/Committee*

## Key Relationships and Support:

Parishes - SSEB - Internal & External Mentors - Boards - Networks - Schools

# Goal:

Unearthing the capacity within school communities to build: every child's **achievement, wellbeing, life chances and spirit of service**

## Key Action

**Create opportunities as hope filled people to experience what is possible**

**Use everyday ways of communicating and learning in a spirit of respect and understanding**

**Develop further opportunities to unearth leadership in respectful partnerships**

## Strategies

- Ensuring that all communities have access to quality presenters and resources
- Enabling and fostering local communities to set up community conversations and actions
- Inviting local "Wisdom People" (elders, long term families, parishioners) to share experience, Wisdom and the story of the community
- Opportunities to understand relational learning
  
- Invitational relationships through natural connections, e.g. Classes, College House teams, etc.
- Invitational learning
  - At Home
  - At School
  - In the Community
- Use everyday multi media as ways of sharing and learning
- Enabling parent, teacher and student learning through three way conversation (e.g. Teacher Advisor Program) and use of technology
  
- Review current opportunities for leadership in community partnerships
- Building capacity to engage in courageous and open conversations:
  - Local sensibilities
  - Shared understanding
  - Common expectations
  - Mutual respect
- Developing sustainable practices around the creation of leadership opportunities

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Charter for Governance

# Context

The SSEB Parent Leadership and Family Engagement Strategy grew out of a strong commitment of the Board, especially its Parent Leaders to increasing the engagement of parents in the education of their children in fulfilling the Church's mission to understand parents as the prime educators of their children. This commitment is informed and inspired by the research and practice of contemporary parent educators and leaders who affirm the importance of the following key elements:

- Parent Connectedness (*the capacity of families to support their children's learning and their own*)
- Community Links (*engaging in mutually beneficial activities to include all as partners in raising local children and youth*)
- Personalised Curriculum (*connecting students to their learning*)
- Community-based Enhanced Learning (*engaging the disengaged*)

(Otero et al, 2011, Hawker Brownlow)

# Vision

The SSEB believes that a deeper commitment to parent leadership and family engagement will:

- Unearth the capacity within communities to be hope filled
- Emphasise the importance of parents as the prime educators and the family being the first school

# Guiding Principles

Moving from the concept of **MY CHILD** to **OUR CHILDREN** within our school communities:

- Acting together locally (**Subsidiarity**)
- Families and School in shared responsibility (**Co-responsibility**)
- Acting together to sustain a school's legacy within its community (**Stewardship**)
- Listening, talking together to understand (**Dialogue**)
- Everyone with something to offer (**Relationships**)

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