The Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities

PARENT COMMITTEES* IN SA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The role of a school’s formal parent committee is to support and leverage the knowledge, capacities and social capital within its broader parent community to work collaboratively with the School Board, principal, parish, educators and staff to provide a Catholic education experience that nourishes the academic, social, emotional and spiritual development of each child and young person in the school.

Tips for Parent Committees

- Regularly review your committee’s role within the school community—how can it be more than just a fundraising committee but also support parents and families to connect the learning at home and school and contribute to the life of the school community?
- Ensure your parent community is clear about the purpose of the parent committee, its priorities and activities including how parents can join the committee and/or contribute to this work.
- For example, map out your planned events for the year on a year planner and keep the school community informed and up-to-date on planning for these activities.
- Consider joint school/parish activities.
- Create a dedicated section in the school newsletter to communicate with the broader parent community.
- Promote and celebrate the committee’s work and successes in the school newsletter, parish newsletter and even the local paper.
- Thank and celebrate all who have contributed to the success of the committee’s activities.
- Liaise with the principal about the committee’s role in welcoming new families to the school community and promoting the importance of parents working in partnership with the school and engaging in their children’s learning.
Keep up to date with the work of the Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities – for example:

- ‘Like’ its Facebook page
  https://www.facebook.com/pages/Federation-of-Catholic-School-Parent-Communities/153137151493359
- Ensure the Federation’s fortnightly communication with families is included in the school newsletter
- Promote its Charter for Parents in Catholic Schools SA
- Table any correspondence from the Federation at your meetings,
- Include the link to its quarterly Federation e-News in your school newsletter
- Send a representative (or more) to Federation events such as its Annual Parent Conference/AGM

*Various terms are used to describe the formal parent committee in SA Catholic schools (e.g. Parents and Friends Committee, Community Connections, Secondary Parent Group etc.)