

# School Council Elections 2019

## Information for Parents

11/02/2019

### What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within State wide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

### Who is on the school council?

For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

- **A mandated elected Parent category** - more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.
- **A mandated elected DET employee category** - members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- **An optional Community member category** - members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

### Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

### How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

### Do I need special experience to be on school council?

No. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

### What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work are eligible to nominate for parent membership of the school council at that school.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

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### Remember

- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

**Contact the Principal: Nicky Fammartino 5977 8500 for further information.  
School Council Election Process & Timeline 2019**

1.	Monday 11th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notice of election and call for nominations</li> </ul>
2.	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close of Nominations 4.00pm.</li> <li>• If not enough nominations, those who have been nominated will be automatically elected and a call for further nominations made.</li> </ul>
3.	Wednesday 20th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List of candidates displayed in office.</li> </ul>
4.	Monday 25th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ballot papers distributed if an election is required.</li> </ul>
5.	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close of ballot—4.00pm</li> <li>• Count of votes (if required)</li> <li>• Declare poll—5.00pm</li> <li>• If an election is not required this will be the date of the AGM &amp; <b>First school council meeting 6.30pm</b></li> </ul>

### Notice of Election & Call for Nominations 2019

In 2019 there are the following vacancies:

- 1 parent member vacancies (2 year)
- 1 DET employee vacancies (2 year)

Nominations are called for the above vacancies as per the school council election process and timeline.

Candidates can be nominated or self nominate.

If you are interested in joining our school council and wish to nominate or you wish to nominate someone else please collect the appropriate nomination form from the office. For any further information please contact me at the school.

Nicky Fammartino  
**PRINCIPAL**