School Council Elections 2017

Information for Parents

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 statewide 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?
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 Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.

• A mandated elected DEECD 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 coopted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Heany Park PS has twelve members of School Council, - eight parent members and four Department of Education & Early Childhood Development 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 and/or 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.

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.

DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the School Council where their child is enrolled.
Collect a nomination form at the office at Heany Park Primary 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.

*If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies in any one membership category, I will declare elected those who nominated in that category and immediately call for further nominations. Nominations are to be lodged within three school days from the date of the closing of the first call for nomination.*

*When the number of nominations is equal to the number of vacancies in any one membership category, I will declare elected those who have nominated and notify the school community that a ballot will not be held for that membership.*

*If the number of nominations received for a membership category is more than there are vacancies in that membership category, a ballot is required for that membership category and will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.*

*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.

Should you require any further information I encourage you to contact me

Kind Regards

Janet Evison
Principal