

**Assumption Catholic Primary School Parental Participation Guidelines**  
**Formulated: 2007**                      **Reviewed: 2009**

**Rationale:**

- Education is a partnership between parents and the school. Both staff and parents requested guidelines on how to make this partnership more effective.
- At staff & “Parents & Friends” meetings a group discussion was held and a spreadsheet developed on the types of activities parents could assist the school with in the education of their children. The aspects considered the roles of parents, the selection criteria, any specific issues that related to the defined activity and the number of parents needed to help carry out the activity. The information is collated as part of these guidelines.
- Another aspect considered was the training required of parents to enhance the effectiveness of their participation. A VISE (Volunteers in Special Education) program is being investigated for a core group of parents who can regularly commit time to day-time classroom participation.

**Aims:**

These guidelines have been developed, in the first instance, with the school’s Vision Statement in mind. The following goals, skills and Attitudes are from the Vision Statement and are reflected in this set of guidelines.

*Goals:*

- To provide an environment in which children will grow spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, physically and socially to their potential.
- To foster harmony and interaction within our community through supporting the role of parents and responding to the needs of all school community members.

*Skills:*

- Students shall gain recognition of their own special gifts and those of others.
- Students shall cooperate with others in learning.

*Attitudes: Students shall see the value of -*

- Generous parental support in school activities.
- Doing your best and using individual talents to the fullest.
- Seeing work and learning as making a valuable contribution to the well-being of the community.

**Resources:**

1. A core group of parents who are able to regularly give of their time during school hours will undergo a half day training course through Jolin Consultancy on the roles of volunteers.
2. Further training will follow, as needed, for those parents volunteering to assist in carrying out specific programs with children. These parents will be trained by Diana Koski, consultant of Special Needs, from the Catholic Education Office and Julie Kay, Special Needs coordinator at Assumption Catholic Primary School.
3. Regular feedback will be sought from volunteers about:
  - Difficulties faced
  - Further training required
  - Resources needed
4. The school will assist regular volunteers to financially meet security requirements of working with children.

**Evaluation:**

Initially the program will be reviewed annually and thereafter bi-annually. The review will consider:

- Regular feedback from volunteers
- Wider feedback from a P&F meeting

**Practical Application of the Guidelines:**

See Appendix A.