

Where the term "Parent" is used in this constitution that term shall also be taken to mean a legal guardian as defined in legal terms.

1. Name

This body shall be known as the Oatlands College Parents' Council. It shall be incorporated under the constitution of the National Parents' Council post primary.

2. The purpose of the Parents' Council

The purpose of the Parents' Council is to provide a structure through which the parents of students attending Oatlands College can work together to attain the best possible education for their sons. The Parents' Council will work with the Principal, Deputy Principal, Staff, Board of Management and Students to build effective partnership of home and college.

3. Aims

- To support the college and management in their work.
- To promote and foster co-operation between home and college.
- To provide a forum for the views of parents.
- To promote the educational welfare interests of the students.
- To give parents an effective voice through affiliation to regional and/or national councils of school parents councils as appropriate.

4. Membership

All parents of students attending Oatlands College will be deemed members of the Parents' Council.

5. Representatives

Only parents of students in the school at the time of the AGM shall be eligible as representatives. Where possible each year group should be represented. Parents can volunteer to join the Council at the AGM. There is no limit to the length of time a representative can serve on the Council. Parents' representatives elected to the Board of Management are automatically members of the committee, but may not hold an officer post. The parents' nominees of the Board of Management shall be deemed as ex-officio members of the Council.

6. Officers

The Council shall consist of a chairperson, secretary, treasurer and any other such officers as may be deemed necessary. These shall be elected at the first Parents' Council meeting after the AGM.

The Board of Management representative is expected to actively solicit parent's views and represent these views to the Board of Management, to report back to the Parents' Council and to keep them informed of matters that are relevant to their participation in the partnership between school and parents.

The Principal, Deputy Principal or other designated staff member shall be invited to attend all meetings but may not hold an officer post (ex-officio). In exceptional circumstances, where deemed necessary by the chairperson, the Principal, Deputy Principal or other designate staff member may be asked to absent themselves from a portion of the meeting.

The Council shall have the power to call on any member to resign, if such member whether by act, deed or otherwise fails to uphold the constitution of the Parents' Council. If such a member fails to resign, he/she shall be suspended by a two/third majority vote at a Parents' Council meeting.

A majority vote at any meeting shall be half plus one of the current full members of the committee at the meeting. In the event of a tie-vote, the chairperson shall have a casting vote which shall be binding. Ex-officio members and co-opted members of the Parents' Council shall not be entitled to a vote.

7. Sub-Committees

The Parents' Council may co-opt extra parents onto a committee to assist in their work. Sub-committees may be set-up for particular tasks. The sub-committees may also co-opt people to assist in their work. Sub-committees are accountable to the main Parents' Council.

8. The AGM

The AGM shall be held before the end of October in each school year. At least fourteen days' notice of the meeting will be given to parents. The business of the AGM will be:

- To receive a report from the secretary regarding the activities since the last AGM
- To receive the treasurers written financial report on activities since the last AGM
- To accept volunteers for the new council
- Any amendment to the constitution shall be passed by a majority of those attending the AGM. Notice of any proposed change should be notified to the parents two weeks before the AGM.

9. Financing

The Council shall be financed primarily by subscription from parents of students in the college. Fundraising may be another source of financing.

A treasurer will be appointed from among the committee members and will be responsible for keeping the accounts of the Parents' Council. The treasurer will give an informal statement of account and expenditure and have available an up-to-date bank statement for all accounts held at each committee meeting. A written statement of income and expenditure will be given at the AGM. The Parents' Council will keep a bank account in its name. The treasurer, chairperson and secretary will be the cheque signatories.

10. Management of the School

The Council shall have no part in the overall management of the College, which is the responsibility of the Board of Management, or in the day-to-day running of the college which is the responsibility of the Principal.

11. Communication

A line of communication shall be maintained with the body of the parents of the school. This shall be done by placing bulletins on the website, noticeboard and end of year report. This should be done by the chairperson and the secretary.

12. Parent Council and Individual Parents

No member of the Council shall make a statement, nor issue a statement on behalf of the Council except with the consent of the Council. The Council shall always act in accordance with the aims of the constitution and in the collective interests of all parents of the College, and shall not be used as a conduit for individual grievances or aims by parents.