

## **Purpose of School Council**

The School Council is the governing body of the school. It represents the whole school community. The major roles of the school council are responsibility for effective management of school finances and resources and the development of educational policies to be followed by the school (within the DEECD guidelines). The School Council supports the leadership, teaching and administration staff in their efforts to maximise the educational opportunities and experiences of all students.

## **The Legislative Framework**

School councils operate under a framework provided by the:

- Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (the Act)
- Education and Training Regulations 2007 (the Regulations)
- Individual school's constituting Order.

Subject to this framework, a school council may regulate its own proceedings.

## **School Council Membership**

The constituting Order of Tinternvale PS states the composition of the Council is:

- 6 elected parent members, who represent more than one third of school councillors. Parent members are elected by the school community.
- 5 elected DEECD employee members. The Principal who is executive officer is included in this number. DEECD members are elected by DEECD employees of the school.
- 4 of community members. It should be noted that community membership positions are appointed, rather than elected. DEECD employees are not eligible for appointment to this category.

Councils are to be between six and fifteen members in total size.

Community members have the same voting rights as elected members.

Elected members of the School council have two-year terms of office, with half retiring by March 31 each year. Elections for the vacated positions will be conducted in accordance with DEECD guidelines and the Principal's Guide to School Council Elections issued by DEECD.

## **Casual Vacancies**

Should a casual vacancy occur on council, this vacancy is filled by council coopting a person from the appropriate category who then completes the rest of the term of office of the retiring member.

## **School Council Guiding Principles**

- The welfare and education of students at TPS will be the primary consideration in decision making.
- School community views and input will be canvassed and considered on policy decisions considered to be major by the Council.

Discussions relating to individuals within the school community will be strictly confidential.

- Disagreements will be resolved within the School Council whenever possible.
- School Council recognises the Principal's right to implement policy in the most appropriate way.
- Public comment will be the responsibility of the Principal and Council President.
- Council decisions will be publicly justifiable through the Annual Report and/or public forums.
- Councillors will declare any conflict of interest as they occur.
- School councillors will at all times behave in a civil and respectful manner.

**Councillors will promote:**

Respectful partnerships

Clear and honest two-way communication

Transparent processes

Democratic, informed decision-making

Personal and professional integrity