Parent and Community Engagement Framework

Coalstoun Lakes

State School

Central Queensland Region
Coalstoun Lakes State School
Parent and Community Engagement Framework

Vision Statement

*Integrity and Industry*

*Effective Learning. Every child. Every classroom. Every day.*

*We aim to achieve the best educational outcomes for every student in our school.*

Purpose:

Parents* and the broader community play a vital role in supporting successful learning outcomes for our children. This framework is about schools engaging with parents and communities to work together to maximise student learning outcomes.

The research tells us that the most meaningful partnerships are those where schools, parents, students and the community work together to focus on student learning. Parent and community engagement that is effectively focused on student learning can deliver powerful outcomes.

This Parent and Community Engagement Framework identifies what schools can do to strengthen learning outcomes for students – through effective partnerships between Principals, Teachers, students, parents and the community. It sends a call to action to our schools to focus on parent and community engagement as a key part of supporting student learning.

The quality of these relationships will determine the quality of the learning. This framework outlines five key elements of parent and community engagement to make a positive difference in our students’ education.

- Communication
- Learning Partnerships
- Community Collaboration
- Decision Making
- Participation

*Parent and Community Engagement Framework*

*Student Development Learning and Wellbeing*
Introduction –

Communication – Effective communication is an exchange between parents and carers, communities and schools that involves information sharing and opportunities to learn about each other.

Learning Partnerships – Partnerships between parents and carers, communities and schools that promote student learning and high expectations for student success.

Community Collaboration – Relationships with the school and wider community to strengthen the ability of schools and families to support student learning and development outcomes.

Decision-Making – Parents, carers and community members play meaningful roles in school decision-making.

Participation – Parents, carers and community participation in student learning and the school community is acknowledged and valued.

Effective Communication at Coalstoun Lakes State School:

Effective communication between schools, Parents, the community and students forms the foundation in developing and maintain partnerships. Schools also have a responsibility to help parents understand the language of learning.

- Use a range of communication tools and channels, including
  - Weekly electronic newsletter – teaching staff are to put in a ‘blurb’ on what is happening in the classroom.
  - Updated our school website – smartphone app component
  - Formal Parent Interviews are conducted in Term 1 and 3. Student mid semester reports are discussed and the assessment tasks in the student portfolio.
  - Teachers are encouraged to share EQ email address for easy access for parents.
  - Principal advertises school Principal mobile phone number on the newsletter for parents to use any time.

- High expectations are talked about on parades, published in the school newsletter and displayed on the school sign.
Learning Partnerships at Coalstoun Lakes State School.

Learning partnerships: Learning is not limited to the classroom. The beliefs, expectations and experience of parents are a powerful determinant in student’s achievement. Understanding the school, home and community contribution to student learning helps cultivate a holistic learning community.

- Parent interviews are paramount to our Goal Setting Program.
- Classroom, Behaviour and Assembly Awards inform the school and wider community of the high expectations are expected.
- Coalstoun Lakes Playgroup attends all school events and participates in fortnightly ‘Reading Buddies’.
- Hosting Under 8s Day in conjunction with Biggenden SS where school students, SDE students and playgroup attend.
- Through the website, newsletter, news articles on building resilience and improving literacy and numeracy levels. This is followed up at P&C meetings.

Community collaboration at Coalstoun Lakes State School

Community collaboration: Schools do not exist in isolation—they are often the central hub of their community. Schools should leverage their position in the community to work together with other community members, for the benefit of all.

- Positive partnership with the local health clinic and psychologists
- Positive partnerships with Council and local businesses
- Involvement in the Coalstoun Lakes Community Development Association (CLCDA)
- Involvement in community clubs, events and functions
- Workshops on Reading/Comprehension are offered periodically
- Paper copies are newsletter are available in 3 community locations
- School Graduation and End of Year Celebration is a community event
- School hosted opt-in family email email distribution lists
- Social Media components include school facebook and twitter
Decision-Making at Coalstoun Lakes State School

Providing opportunities for relevant consultation ensure decisions reflect local needs, whether for an individual student or the school as a whole. Greater community ownership and trust of school directions and decisions can be developed through open and authentic consultation. The flowchart below is a representation of the process of decision making on issues where the P&C are required to be involved.

1. **Policies/Frameworks to be contextualised at site**

2. **Principal begins talks with stakeholders – staff, parents, students and wider community**

3. **Principal drafts a response for the school community (including students, staff, parents and the wider community)**

4. **Principal shares and prompts discussion on the draft proposal at P&C Meetings and in School Newsletter**

5. **Principal and staff redraft policy and present final draft to P&C for approval.**

6. **Principal presents new policy/framework to the wider community.**
Participation at Coalstoun Lakes State School

Participation: In a society where parents lead complex lives, opportunities to participate in a variety of ways. Times and places is key to improvement. Parent and community participation in student learning and the school community should be acknowledged and valued. This involvement sends a clear signal to students about the value of education.

Ensure the school website is up to date with events, news and pictorial evidence.

Professional Development (Reading, Asbestos, Code of Conduct) are on offer for P&C, parents and volunteers.

Reading Volunteers are welcome – induction for volunteers is on offer at Coalstoun Lakes State School.

Encourage parents/ caregivers to share their talents with the school community.

At Coalstoun Lakes State School we strive to achieve strong parent and community engagement through:

- Parents are encouraged to take a genuine and close interest in the work of the school, are acknowledged as the first teachers of their children, and engage as partners in their children’s learning.
- Communication with parents provides information about where students are up to in their learning, what progress they have made over time and what they might do to support their children’s further learning.
- Respectful and caring relationships are reflected in the ways in which staff, students and parents interact and in the language they use in both formal and informal settings.
- Schools have regular and ongoing ways of finding out what parents need to engage with their child’s learning.
- Parents are informed of the school’s key expectations for behaviour, attendance, homework.
- The Principal and the teachers use many styles of communication appropriate for parents’ cultural backgrounds, availability, working conditions, etc.
- The Principal and teachers regularly connect with the parent/s of every child in the school.
- There are mechanisms to build relationships with relevant members of the community.

At Coalstoun Lakes State School we are engaged in continual improvement

- The Teaching and Learning Audit Dimension 3 – a culture that promotes learning provides a mechanism for schools to review their parent and community engagement.
- The School Opinion Survey also provides schools with valuable data to reflect upon the effectiveness of their parent and community engagement.
- School and Community Partnerships is one of the central elements for inclusion in the Annual Implementation Plan and School Plan.