



ELIMBAH STATE SCHOOL



Parent & Community Engagement Strategy

The Elimbah State School community recognises the integral role parents and families play as partners in their children's education. School staff engage with the community, modelling and fostering respectful relationships between learners and all members of the school.

Parent Engagement:

School staff value meaningful relationships with parents with the shared goal of maximising learning and wellbeing outcomes for all of our students. We believe that positive parent engagement improves students' self-esteem, school attendance, and behaviour at school. In fact, Hattie (2008) estimated that effective parent engagement could add the equivalent of 2 or 3 extra years to a child's education. Parents are encouraged to collaborate with our school and community to strengthen partnerships and directly assist in supporting their child's learning.

Community engagement:

Sustainable relationships within the Elimbah community can improve students' learning and wellbeing outcomes and assist students to understand their role in the broader community. Community partnerships include child and health services, community organisations, sporting clubs, local businesses and industry. Through these partnerships, we increase our ability to offer a range of experiences, support and resources to our students.

5 elements of the parent and community engagement framework

This framework outlines five key elements of parent and community engagement at Elimbah SS that make a positive difference in our students' education.

1. Communication – Effective communication is an exchange between students, parents, communities and schools that is inclusive and involves information sharing and opportunities to learn from each other.
2. Partnerships with parents – Partnerships between parents, students and schools promote student learning, wellbeing and high expectations for student success.
3. Community collaboration – Relationships between the school and wider community strengthen the ability of schools and families to support student learning, wellbeing and developmental outcomes.
4. Decision-making – Parents, students and community members play meaningful roles in school decision-making.
5. School culture – Respectful relationships between students, parents and the school community are valued and enhance the promotion of student learning and wellbeing.

The Elimbah State School Parent & Community Engagement Framework is endorsed by:

School representative:

P&C Representative:

	Shared Understanding	Engagement at Elimbah SS
Communication	<p>Effective communication forms the foundation for developing and maintaining partnerships. Communication should be centred around student learning and wellbeing. School staff have a responsibility to help parents understand the 'language of learning' including the terms used by teachers in the classroom with students to communicate learning goals and expectations. Parents should regularly discuss learning progress with their child at home and effectively communicate with teachers using a common language.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information sharing on enrolment during interview • Class newsletters outline current learning focus and provide calendars of events and timetables • Parent information evenings provide an opportunity to meet with teachers and to discuss classroom routines, expectations and learning focus. • Teachers offer various forms of communication including phone, email and available meeting times • Informal contact about progress throughout the year is deliberate and individualised • Fortnightly whole school newsletters share information about upcoming events as well as improvement priorities and targets • Data sets and survey results are shared through newsletters, emails and P&C meetings
Partnerships	<p>Learning is not limited to the classroom. The beliefs, expectations and experience of parents are powerful determinants in students' achievement. Effective partnerships can help to raise parents' awareness of their ability to improve their children's learning and wellbeing. Understanding the school, home and community contribution to student learning helps cultivate a holistic learning environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff model best practice by being friendly, caring and welcoming to parents, create a supportive environment and positively influence the behaviour of students • Class teachers provide advice about routines for homework and clearly communicate expectations for outcomes • Class teachers include practical activities in homework that involve parents, especially in literacy and numeracy. • Class teachers provide positive feedback about individual student progress and behaviour/effort in an ongoing, informal manner • Parent information sessions are run to help upskill parents in areas such as using iPads, specific mathematical concepts, helping their children with reading
Collaboration	<p>Community members and organisations offer unique knowledge, expertise and perspectives that schools can use to enhance student wellbeing and make learning more authentic and connected. Community approaches to improving learning make it possible for schools to form strategic partnerships with families and community organisations. This type of collaboration can help address issues external to the school and better support students' wellbeing and ability to come to school ready and able to learn.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent forums are offered as an opportunity to seek input and feedback regarding current issues • Local businesses are offered opportunity to sponsor P&C events, and are given priority where possible when purchasing goods and services • Community groups support Chaplaincy, P&C and Student Council programs and events through donation of services and volunteering (eg lunch time clubs) • Transition to Prep and high school are enhanced through connections with local early years centres and high schools • Community groups are invited to relevant school events such as Under 8s Day, NAIDOC, Arts Festival
Decision-making	<p>Parent and community involvement in school decision-making encourages greater ownership and ensures local needs are reflected. Decisions about student needs should involve consultation and collaboration with stakeholders and open and transparent communication.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents are regularly encouraged to participate in P&C meetings and Parent Forums • Parent input is sought whenever revising policies or processes such as Dress Code, Responsible Behaviour Plan, Strategic Plan, Fundraising focus, Facilities planning • Consultation processes offer different modes of communication such as Facebook, emails, newsletters, information sessions • Leadership team meets regularly with P&C Executive to review upcoming events and communicate about local issues • School excursions are endorsed by P&C members for relevance and cost
School Culture	<p>Respectful relationships between the school, students, parents and the school community need to be actively cultivated and valued. Nurturing a culture that respects and values difference amongst the whole school community supports the inclusive engagement of all families. Parent and community participation in student learning and the school community should be acknowledged and recognised.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents are regularly encouraged to meet with Leadership team to discuss issues or concerns • Consultation about the range of school events and activities is sought through P&C meetings and Facebook posts • Information about inclusivity and differentiation is shared regularly with parents to ensure an understanding of the difference between 'fair' and 'equal'