Purpose

Our school is committed to meeting the needs of the local community. In doing so, we will communicate openly and transparently with the community, seeking community input into school direction, priorities and decision making to cater for the needs of all of its students.

Implementation

• Our school will strongly promote and support School Council, committees and other community groups.
• The school will consult with the community on all topics deemed appropriate by School Council, using processes that are timely, transparent and that maximise input.
• Consultation will focus on the community groups most affected by the potential outcome.
• Generally the community will be consulted on policy making, school direction and planning, the formation of goals and priorities, curriculum choices and the processes such as the reporting of student progress and community learning opportunities. **However there are operational decisions, which would be inappropriate for community consultation.**
• Consultation will be inclusive and non-discriminatory.
• The community will be informed that consultation does not mean decision-making. Nor does it equate that decision-making will simply be based on popularity of ideas or weight of numbers.
• Consultation tools may include surveys, questionnaires, meetings or open forums.
• Information gleaned from community consultations will be openly distributed.
• School Council will actively seek input from minority community groups, where cultural or language difficulties might otherwise inhibit their participation.
• All decisions made after community consultation will be openly communicated, as will the reasoning supporting such decisions.
• In the event of dissatisfaction with a decision of the school then the School and DEECD consultation and grievance resolution procedures will be followed.

Evaluation: This policy will be reviewed in consultation with the whole school community as part of the school's four-year review cycle.

School Council ratified this policy in 2014
Next review of this policy is in 2018

*Consultation is not perfunctory advice on what is about to happen neither is it joint decision-making or a barrier to the prerogative of management to make decisions.*
*Consultation allows the decision making process to be informed, it requires providing key stake-holders with a bona fide opportunity to influence the decision maker.*