

**St. Michael's Parent and Friends Association
Blacktown South
Constitution**

1. NAME

1.1 This body shall be known as the St. Michael's Parent and Friends Association.

2. AIMS

2.1 The Parent and Friends Association shall:

- a) actively promote the interest and public image of St. Michael's School ("the school") in particular and Catholic Education generally by bringing together parents, pupils, clergy, parishers and teaching staff in a spirit of collaboration and close co-operation.
- b) provide a forum for discussion on education and pastoral matters.
- c) promote activities to raise funds which assist and support the school to acquire teaching resources and keep buildings and grounds in good order.
- d) provide opportunities for the school, parents, staff and other parishioners to come together to celebrate and socialise so as to build a strong and harmonious community spirit.
- e) assist in maintenance and improvement of amenities, resources and facilities of the school.

3. ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF THE ASSOCIATION

- 3.1** The Association operates under the control, supervision and with the consent of the Bishop and Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church for the Diocese of Parramatta.
- 3.2** The Association has no separate legal status and is part of the Parish of St. Michael's.
- 3.3** The Association works in collaboration with the principal and the Parish Priest or co-coordinating Parish Priest.
- 3.4** The Association does not exercise authority over the school staff or have control over the management of the school.
- 3.5** Decisions on the range and extent of authorised activities, designed to achieve the aims set out in 2 above, are matters for determination at the local level involving the Association, the Principal and the Parish Priest (Primary School) or Co-coordinating Parish Priest (secondary school). In the event if consensus not being reached on a particular matter, the decision regarding that matter will be made by the parish Priest or Co-coordinating Parish Priest.
- 3.6** Any liability there may be in relation to incidents occurring at authorised activities conducted by this authorised Association rests with the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church for the Diocese of Parramatta.
- 3.7** Before the constitution comes into effect it must be approved by the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church for the Diocese of Parramatta.

3.8 Any proposed amendment to this constitution will only take effect when it is approved by the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church for the Diocese of Parramatta.

4. MEMBERSHIP

4.1 Parents, guardians of pupils of the school and parishioners of the parish(es) are eligible members of the Association.

4.2 The Secretary of the Association shall maintain a register of members of the Association.

4.3 A person ceases to be a member of the Association if the person ceases to qualify for membership under clause 4.1 dies, resigns or is expelled from the Association by the Executive Committee.

4.4 Each member shall have the right to vote at any meeting of the Association.

4.5 The Parish Priest, Assistant Priest (if applicable), the School Principal and the School Assistant Principal shall be ex-officio members of the Association and members of teaching staff as ex-officio members.

5. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

5.1 The executive committee shall consist of 4 elected office bearers and ex-officio members. The elected members are the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 6 other committee members in the roles to be determined by the members of the Association at an Annual General meeting.

5.2 Terms of office for all office-bearers shall not exceed three (3) consecutive years in any one position.

5.3 In an officer is absent from three (3) consecutive General Meetings without reasonable cause, the position may be declared vacant and an election held to fill the vacancy.

5.4 An elected officer of the Association may be removed from office by resolution of the Association carried at a properly convened General or Special Meeting. Notice of motion given by a member and seconded by another member to remove an elected officer must be given to the Secretary not less than one (1) month before the proposed Meeting. The Secretary shall notify the affected elected officer within seven (7) days of receipt of such notice.

5.5 In the event of a casual vacancy occurring in the membership of the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee may appoint a member of the Association to fill the vacancy and the member so appointed shall hold office, subject to this constitution, until the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting next following the date of appointment.

5.6 Subject to this Constitution and any resolution passed by the Association at a General Meeting, the Executive Committee:

- shall control and manage the affairs of the Association;
- may exercise all such functions as may be exercised by the Association other than those functions that are required by this Constitution to be exercised by a General Meeting; and

- has power to perform all such acts and do all such things as appears to the Executive Committee to be necessary or desirable for the proper management of the affairs of the Association.
- To support Executives and opportunity to attend in service regarding roles and meeting procedures for all office bearers.

6. DUTIES OF THE OFFICE BEARERS

6.1 The President shall:

- Preside as chairperson at all meetings
- Ensure the smooth running of all meetings
- Ensure meetings run on time
- Prepare the agenda for General/Annual Meetings in collaboration with other members of the Executive Committee.
- Liaise with the Principal and Parish Priest or co-coordinating Parish Priest to prepare the agenda for the executive meetings.
- Liaise with the Principal and Parish Priest or Co-coordinating Parish Priest at all times.

6.2 The Vice President shall:

- Assist the president in her/his duties as required.
- Preside as chairperson at meetings in the absence of the President.

6.3 The Secretary shall:

- Take minutes of all business conducted.
- Ensure minutes are signed by the president at the next meeting.
- Receive and deal with correspondence.
- Maintain copies of all correspondence, bulletins and minute books.
- Give notice of the agenda to all members.

6.4 The Treasurer shall:

- Receive all monies and keep accurate records of monies received.
- Obtain and keep receipts for all monies paid by the Association
- Bank all monies received
- Present at each General Meeting a Statement of Accounts showing receipts and expenditure during the current month together with the current balance.
- Present at the General Meeting an audited statement of accounts.
- Present at the Annual General Meeting an anticipated set of accounts for the year ahead (as prepared by the Executive Committee) for approval or amendment by the members of the Association.

6.5 It is strongly recommended that a member of the Association/School is elected to represent the School on the Parents Representative Council at the Parramatta Diocese.

6.6 An assistant secretary shall assist in the duties of the secretary and in their absence carry out the duties as noted above in 6.4 of the constitution of the secretary. An assistant treasurer shall assist in the duties of the treasurer and in their absence carry out the duties as noted in 6.4 of the constitution of the treasurer.

7. SUB COMMITTEES

- 7.1 The Association may set up separate sub-committees to carry out specific functions on its behalf. Such sub-committees shall be accountable to the Association as a whole. Sub-committees will act within the terms of reference approved by the General Meeting of the Association or by the Executive Committee meetings at which the sub-committee is formed.

8. MEETINGS

- 8.1 The Association shall meet at least four (4) times per year, including the Annual General Meeting. Each such meeting is a General Meeting for the purpose of the Constitution.

- 8.2 All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with standard meeting procedures. In the case of a tied vote the chairperson shall exercise a casting vote.

8.3 General Meetings

- 8.3.1 Ten (10) members including at least two (2) Executive members, shall constitute a quorum at General Meetings.
- 8.3.2 Adequate notice must be given for meeting with the agenda being issued at least fourteen (14) days prior to meeting.
- 8.3.3 General meetings shall not last longer than one and half (1 ½) hours. A motion by the President to extend the meeting must be carried by a two thirds minority.

8.4 Meetings of the Executive Committee

- 8.4.1 Half of the number of members shall constitute a quorum at meeting of the Executive Committee.
- 8.4.2 Meetings of the Executive Committee are convened by the President as necessary or, in the absence of the President, by the Vice President fourteen (14) days notice of such a meeting be given to all elected and ex-officio members of the Executive Committee.

8.5 Annual General Meeting

- 8.5.1 An Annual General Meeting shall be held once each calendar year in Term 4 (being within six (6) months of the end of the financial year of the Association) when the annual reports and balance sheet shall be presented. At least thirty (30) days notice of the day of the Annual General Meeting shall be given. The Agenda of the Annual General Meeting shall be notified fourteen (14) days before the meeting.
- 8.5.2 The quorum for an Annual General Meeting shall be ten (10) members, not including ex-officio members.
- 8.5.3 At each Annual General Meeting all positions shall be declared vacant. The members of the Association shall elect an Executive Committee as required by 5.1. Other positions and sub-committees as determined by the meeting may also be elected at this time. The Parish Priest or the Principal or the Assistant Principal shall conduct each election and declare the result.

8.5.4 Any candidate for the Executive Committee shall be nominated and seconded by members of the Association and if there is more than one candidate for each position, the election shall be decided by ballot. No absent members can be accepted as a candidate unless she/he accepts nomination in person or in writing.

8.5.5 All members, other than ex-officio members, are entitled to vote in the election of the office bearers.

8.6 Special Meetings

8.6.1 A special Meeting of the Association shall be called at any time on the signed request of the Principal and four (4), of the Executive Committee. Members must be given ten (10) days notice of a Special Meeting, stating clearly the purpose for which the Special Meeting has been convened.

8.6.2 A quorum for a Special Meeting shall be the same as for an Annual General Meeting.

9. FINANCES

9.1 The funds of the Association shall be deposited with the Diocesan Development Fund or any reputable financial institution into one or more interest bearing accounts in the name of the Association and shall be controlled by the Executive Committee.

9.2 The financial year for the Association shall be from 1 October until 30 September.

9.3 A proposed budget for the Association will be prepared by the Parish Priest, Principal and Parent and Friends Executive and approved at the next General Meeting. The purpose of the Parent and Friends budget is to maximize educational benefits to the students. Money collected by the P & F would be provided as a donation to the school to assist maximizing these benefits.

9.4 The accounts shall be operated by any two (2) members of the Executive Committee or, for any account established with the authority of the Executive Committee for the use by a separate committee, by any four (4) signatories to that account. Any such account of a separate committee shall have at least two (2) members of the Executive Committee appointed as signatories to the account.

9.5 No expenditure commitments shall be made or money withdrawn from the Associations accounts unless:

- This has been authorised at a General Meeting or in an exceptional case by the executive; or
- The expenditure is for an item which has been approved in the Budget at the previous General Meeting, including expenditure anticipated in support of approved fundraising activities.

- 9.6** Payments and withdrawals from the accounts shall in normal circumstances be made by cheque.
- 9.7** Petty cash advances for minor cash payments may be approved by the Association or Executive Committee.
- 9.8** The treasurer shall include all accounts and petty cash transactions and balances in the statement presented to the General Meeting. An auditor for the ensuing year shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting. The auditor shall:
- Be a qualified accountant.
 - Not be a member of the Executive Committee of the Associates
 - Not be an immediate relative of the member of the Executive Committee.
 - Examine all books, accounts, vouchers and receipts and furnish a report which shall be presented to the Annual General Meeting prior to the election of officers.
- 9.9** Any expenditure for any project in excess of the sum of \$20,000.00 shall require the approval of the Principal, the Parish Priest and the Diocesan Bishop.

10. NOTICES

- 10.1** For the purpose of this constitution, wherever notices are required to be given or served or items to be issued or published to members, such shall be deemed to have occurred and served upon each member by, and the time of, the placing of same on a notice board in the school. In addition to such formal process but without detracting from the validity of it, the Executive Committee shall use its best endeavors to advise members of such matters in the school newsletter and parish bulletin.

11. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- 11.1** Amendments to the constitution may only be made at:
- The Annual General Meeting with the proposed amendment detailed in the notified agenda.
 - A Special Meeting duly called for the purpose, with the proposed amendment specifically included in the notice of the meeting, which shall be issued at least twenty one (21) days before the meeting.
 - A quorum must be presented and it must be carried by two thirds majority of those present and eligible to vote.
- 11.2** Any amendment to the constitution will only take effect when approved by the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church of the Diocese of Parramatta.

12. DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

- 12.1** The Association may be dissolved in terms of a resolution duly carried at a General Meeting provided that a Notice of Motion to that effect shall have been given to the President, in writing, at least twenty one (21) days prior to such General Meeting. The proposal to dissolve the Association must be notified at least fourteen (14) days before the meeting.
- 12.2** In the event that the Association fails to achieve a quorum for an Annual General Meeting within a full calendar year, the Association may be dissolved under the direction of the Parish Priest or Coordinating Parish Priest or two thirds of the majority of those members present.

12.3 Any monies held by the Association at the time of dissolution shall, after payment of all outstanding accounts, be transferred to the Principal or Parish Priest for the use in the school or, if the school no longer operates, to the Bishop for the purpose of education in the Diocese.

13. INDEMNITY

The Trustees for the Roman Catholic Church for the Diocese of Parramatta shall indemnify and keep indemnified any person who is, or at any time has been, a member of the Association against every action or suit that shall be brought and maintained for anything done or omitted pursuant to the duties imposed upon that person as a member of the Association provided that such indemnity shall not apply in respect of any fraudulent or criminal act or omission.

14. The constitution must be approved by the Trustees if the Roman Catholic Church for the Diocese of Parramatta.

The standard constitution has been approved by the Bishop of Parramatta. The standard constitution is thus approved by the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church for the Diocese of Parramatta.