



## Syndal South Primary School

### Constitution of Syndal South Primary School Parent's Association

The organisation formed under this constitution shall be known as Parent's Association hereafter referred to as "the Parent's Association".

#### 1. Aims and Objectives

Working in cooperation with the Principal and School Council, the Parent's Association's aims, and objectives are to:

- contribute to the wellbeing of the school community
- encourage the participation of all parents in the life of the school and the education of their children
- provide opportunities for parents to get to know each other and to be informed about their child's school
- provide opportunities for parents to extend their understanding of school operations, and general education policy
- contribute to proposals on school policy and other educational issues (as identified or discussed with the Principal or School Council)
- raise funds for the benefit of the school.

#### 2. Parent's Association Values

The Parent's Association commits to upholding the following values:

- respectful partnerships
- clear and honest two-way communication
- transparent processes
- democratic, informed decision-making.

#### 3. Membership and Annual Registration

Membership shall be open to any parent or guardian of a child attending the school or any other interested individual of the immediate school community.

All members must sign and complete the **Schedule 1: Parents' Club Registration Form** to the Constitution.

The annual Registration Form shall be submitted to the Parent's Association Secretary on or before the Annual General Meeting of the Parent's Association or at any General Meeting of the Parent's Association.

Upon submitting a signed and completed Registration Form, a person becomes a Registered Member of the Parent's Association until the next Annual General Meeting.

Only Registered Members are eligible to vote at any meeting.

The Parent's Association Secretary shall maintain a file of Registered Members of the Parent's Association and their addresses, and either provide an attendance book for members to sign at each meeting they are in attendance or take attendance of present Registered Members in Parent's Association minutes at each meeting.

Only Registered Members are eligible to vote at any Parent's Association meeting or for election to any office in the Parent's Association.



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#### **4. Office Bearers**

The Parent's Association shall have as a minimum number of office bearers, a President, Secretary and Treasurer. Other office bearers may be elected as required. All office bearer positions shall be declared vacant at the Annual General Meeting and shall be open to any Registered Member of the Parent's Association. Office bearers will be elected to office for a period until the next Annual General Meeting.

#### **5. Election of Office Bearers**

Elections shall be conducted by an independent person, such as the Principal, a teacher at the school or a senior regional officer of the Department of Education and Training. The person who conducts the election of office bearers must not be a current Parent's Association member or nominated for an office in that election. Elections may be conducted by secret ballot.

A Registered Member who nominates for office must be present at the Annual General Meeting at which the election of office bearers occurs or have indicated their intention to nominate in writing to the President prior to the meeting.

An office bearer of the Parent's Association may be removed from office (but not from membership of the Parent's Association) by a resolution carried by a majority vote of members present at a General Meeting. Notice of intention to move a resolution that an office bearer be removed from office shall be included in the notice summoning the meeting at which the resolution will be moved. Such notice must be circulated to all Registered Members and the office bearer, at least seven days prior to the meeting at which the resolution will be considered.

The office bearer in question must have an opportunity to respond at the meeting to a written copy of the claim made against him/her, which must be provided to him/her at least seven days prior to the meeting at which the resolution will be considered.

A casual vacancy caused by the resignation, removal or death of an office bearer shall be filled at the next meeting of the Parent's Association by election. Notice of this shall be provided to all Registered Members of the Parent's Association at least seven days prior to the meeting at which the election shall be held.

#### **6. Annual General Meetings**

The Annual General Meeting of the Parent's Association shall be held during the month of November unless the majority of members present at a General Meeting vote, after proper notice of a motion to change the date of a particular Annual General Meeting.

#### **7. General Meetings**

General Meetings shall be held monthly unless otherwise agreed by a majority vote of Registered Members. All members shall be notified of the date of a General Meeting at least one week before each meeting.

#### **8. Extraordinary Meetings**

An Extraordinary Meeting of the Parent's Association can be called, upon a written request to the President or Secretary, by three Registered Members or by a General Meeting of the Parent's Association. Written notice of the time, date, place and object of an Extraordinary Meeting must



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be provided to all Registered Members no less than four days before an Extraordinary Meeting occurs.

#### **9. Conflict of Interest**

If a Registered Member or a member of his or her immediate family has an actual or perceived conflict of interest (either a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest) in a subject or matter under discussion at a meeting, the member must declare the conflict of interest.

If the person presiding at the meeting decides that the declared conflict is material, the member must not be present during the relevant discussion unless invited to do so by the person presiding at the meeting and must not be present when a vote is taken on the matter. A member's temporary absence for this purpose does not affect the meeting quorum. The declaration of interest should be included in the minutes of the meeting.

#### **10. Quorum**

The quorum for a meeting of the Parent's Association shall be a minimum of 3 Registered Members.

#### **11. Voting**

A person who has become a Registered Member at the Annual General Meeting is immediately eligible to vote. A person who has become a Registered Member at a General Meeting is not eligible to vote until the next meeting is held.

Only Registered Members present at any meeting shall be entitled to vote.

A Registered Member may be present at a meeting in person or, by prior agreement with the Secretary, by videoconferencing or teleconferencing. It is the responsibility of the Secretary to ensure appropriate videoconferencing or teleconferencing facilities are available and set up at the time of the meeting.

Voting shall be by a show of hands unless a majority of those present request a secret ballot. Voting shall be determined by a simple majority. Where voting is tied, the President may exercise a casting vote. In the event that a secret ballot is called when one or more Registered Members are present via videoconferencing or teleconferencing, it is the responsibility of the President to determine the voting process for these members.

#### **12. Finance**

All revenue and expenditure (including reimbursements) in relation to the Parent's Association must be approved by a General Meeting of the School Council in accordance with the school's procedures.

The Parent's Association will have a sub-program within the school's official account on CASES 21. All revenue and expenses relating to the Parent's Association must be recorded within this sub-program in accordance with Department of Education and Training policy as per the Department's website.



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A separate sub-program must be maintained for the purpose of:

- (a) the administrative functions of the Parent's Association; and
- (b) the raising of funds by the Parent's Association for the benefit of the school.

All funds raised by the Parent's Association by fundraising activities must be held in the Parent's Association sub-program by the School Council in trust for the general or particular purpose for which the funds were raised.

The Parent's Association finances will be audited along with those of the school as part of the Department's audit process. It is the responsibility of the School and the Parent's Association to provide relevant financial documentation and ensure records are up to date.

The Parent's Association shall not operate for profit or undertake activities for the private gain of individual members.

#### **13. Fundraising**

The Parent's Association may undertake fundraising activities, with the prior approval of the School Council, for the purpose of:

- (a) the establishment or augmentation of school funds; or
- (b) the establishment or augmentation of funds for a particular school purpose.

#### **14. Standards and Procedures**

The Parent's Association **may** set its own standards and procedures provided that these do not conflict with this Constitution. These standards and procedures may include but are not limited to:

- (a) standing orders for the conduct of meetings, including minute taking
- (b) dispute resolution processes
- (c) code of conduct.

#### **15. Privacy**

The Parent's Association and all members of the Parent's Association must comply with Victorian privacy law and the Schools' Privacy Policy on the Department of Education and Training's website. All 'personal information' collected, used or disclosed by this club, is protected by the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* (Vic) and *Health Records Act 2001* (Vic) (collectively, Victorian privacy law).

#### **16. Parent's Association Records**

All minute books, correspondence, annual financial statements, expenditure vouchers, registration forms and other documents of the Parent's Association will be the property of the Minister and will be made available to officers authorised by the Secretary of the Department of Education and Training. All such records not in current use will be filed in the school building with other school records.

#### **17. Representation on School Council**

Where the School Council invites the Parent's Association to nominate a member to fill a Community Member Category position on the School Council, the Parent's Association shall elect a member, as the Parent's Association nominee. The member elected by the Parent's Association must not be an employee of the Department of Education and Training.



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#### 18. Incorporations

The Parent's Association is not permitted to incorporate.

#### 19. Voluntary Dissolution

The Parent's Association may not be voluntarily dissolved unless:

- (a) all reasonable steps have been taken to circulate a notice of the proposed dissolution generally throughout the school community; and
- (b) a meeting to discuss the notice of dissolution is held not less than 14 days after the circulation of that notice; and
- (c) at least two-thirds of those present at that meeting agree to the dissolution.

If, at the meeting, a decision is made to dissolve the Parent's Association, the following actions must be taken:

- (a) the control of all property and other assets must be transferred to the School Council; and
- (b) a person present at the meeting must report the dissolution in writing to the School Council as soon as practicable.

#### 20. Automatic Dissolution upon Closure or Merger of School

If the school closes or merges with another school, the Parent's Association is dissolved. The Parent's Association must transfer control of all property and other assets held by the Parent's Association to the School Council before the school closes or is merged.



## Schedule 1: Parents' Club Registration Form

### Parent's Association Registration Form

I \_\_\_\_\_\* wish to become a Member of the **Syndal South Primary School's** Parent's Association. By signing this form, I agree to abide by the Parent's Association Constitution at all times, including upholding the values in clause 2 of the Constitution. I will strive to make a positive difference in the school community; act honestly and with integrity; use resources responsibly and appropriately; engage genuinely with the community; comply with relevant legislation and policies; and to treat everyone in a considerate, fair and courteous manner.

I am aware that my registration needs to be renewed at the next Annual General Meeting.

Address:\* \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ (or) Mobile number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email:\* \_\_\_\_\_

Child(ren) Name(s) and Year Level(s): \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Required information*

*The Parent's Association Secretary is required to maintain a log of registered members of the Parent's Association and their addresses in accordance with the Parent's Association's Constitution. The Parent's Association will seek to provide information including meeting agendas and any supporting documentation via email.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This form will be filed in the school building, will be the property of the Minister and will be made available to officers authorised by the Secretary of the Department of Education and Training.

All school clubs, (including Parents' Clubs), are governed by the Department of Education and Training, and therefore must protect the information that they collect. This means that all members of **Syndal South Primary School** must comply with Victorian privacy law and the Schools' Privacy Policy. All 'personal information' collected, used or disclosed by this Club, is protected by the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic) and Health Records Act 2001 (Vic) (collectively, Victorian privacy law).