

Wellcamp State School

Parent and Community Engagement Framework



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 community 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 parents and community engagement as a key part of supporting student learning.

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

Extract: DETE

(Department of Education, Training and Employment. – Parent and Community Engagement Framework)

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.

Communication: 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.

At Wellcamp we use a range of communication tools and channels, including Fortnightly newsletter – including input from classroom teachers about what is happening in their rooms.

Updated our school website –very reader friendly. Use of the Q Schools app and Facebook page.

Parades where students participate– celebrate events, announce house cup progress and hand out ‘Star Kids’ and reading and attendance awards. Parade notes are added to the newsletter each Monday.

Formal Parent Interviews are conducted Term 2&4. A Student Learning Log is kept by students in year 3-6 and sent home to the parents twice a term. These learning logs include goals, data collected on the student and assessment tasks and are added in the student file after discussion with students. The students in Prep to year 2 take home a weekly feedback book completed by their teacher which provides feedback on student’s progress on academic results, behaviour and effort. Term overviews are sent home at the beginning of each term.

Parenting ideas and suggestions are a regular part of our newsletter.

School Calendar is embedded in the newsletter and is available on our website.

High expectations for both curriculum and behaviour are talked about on weekly parade, published in the school newsletter and displayed on the school sign. A rule of the week is negotiated at a student meeting towards the end of each week and this is shared with the school at parade and displayed in each classroom, in the eating area and on the school sign.

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

Students set goal each semester in their learning log/feedback books and these goals are shared with parents.

Star Kid Awards (fortnightly) informs the school and wider community of the high expectations are expected.

Parent reading information sessions are held for the parents of younger students. Parents are made aware of the importance of reading nightly with their children. Awards are given to students who read regularly at home and they are recognised on our reading wall of fame.

Through the fortnightly newsletter, news articles on building resilience and improving relationships. This is followed up at P&C meetings.

Transition programs with early childhood providers and our local high school are run during semester 2. Playgroup is run each week to encourage enrolments and build strong community partnerships with future families.

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 students' doctor, paediatricians and psychologists

Positive partnership with Indigenous parents – who help organise NADIOC Week

Positive partnerships with Band 5/6 school networks and Southern Vale Cluster.

Positive partnerships with USQ and regular work with pre-service teachers.

The school holds a number of events throughout the year which parents and community members are encouraged to attend. Some examples of these are:- Grandparents day, Under 8s, Sports and Swimming Carnivals, ANZAC celebrations, CWA International Day, School Disco and end of year Concert and Graduation, just to name a few. Class teachers are also encouraged to invite parents to view performances or celebrate student work.

Positive partnership with Wagner's and the Wellcamp Airport as well as the Toowoomba City Council and Boral.

Decision – Making: Providing opportunities for relevant consultation ensure decision reflects 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 Wellcamp School Community values the opinions of all staff, students and families who are welcome to attend P&C meetings or put any suggestions into the red box in the office. We value input and encourage all parties to become involved in our school.

Junior secondary meetings are held for all parents of year 5,&6 students along with transition days at Harristown High School. Transition statements are collected from early childhood providers and several pre-prep induction days are held for parents and students.

Regular P&C meetings where school decisions are made around camps and excursions, school activities and extra-curricular activities. The Principals Report each month also details what is happening in the school and parent input is welcomed. Drafts of policies, frameworks and the Annual Implementation Plan are presented at meetings, where feedback is sought before documents are completed for presentation to the wider community.

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.

All families are invited to our weekly assemblies. Those unable to attend can find the parade notes, known as the 'Wellcamp Whispers' on our website by Monday evening and photographs from parade appear in the school newsletter.

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 parents and volunteers. Photographs and information is put on to the school Facebook page each week to maximise parent engagement.

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

Parent education sessions and information morning for Prep parents.



Grandparents' Day

Book Week

