

Why become a school councillor?

- It's a great way to get involved, gain a greater understanding and have a say about how students at Albert Park Primary School are educated.
- You get to help present and future students at the school.
- Your children are likely to give more of their best at school because they see it is as something you value.

What do Councils do?

Councils have the responsibility of School Governance. Some of the main responsibilities of school council are to:

- establish the broad direction of the school;
- participate in developing and monitoring the school strategic plan and school budget;
- develop, review and update school policies;
- maintain the school's buildings and grounds; and
- raise funds for school related purposes.

What would I have to do?

You don't need to be an expert to join school council, you just need to be keen to help out.

Councillors need to be able to:

- Attend council meetings usually held twice per school term or 8 times per year – they are usually on a Monday and run from 7.30 - 9.30PM.
- Join a subcommittee, which focuses on a particular aspect of the work of school council e.g. Education, Facilities, Finance, Fundraising etc.
- Advocate for the school council in the wider school community; and
- Consider taking a role as an Office Bearer or sub-committee convenor.

What's expected of me?

I would need to:

- Have a strong interest in representing the whole school community on council, have a clear understanding of what the council does and support the council team as it carries out its responsibilities.
- Understand what the school is trying to do and to support it in its efforts to achieve its goals and priorities.
- Trust and value the contributions that others make to council.
- Take on delegated responsibilities and take personal responsibility for my contribution to the full team effort.

What do I need to know?

The most detailed source of information about school councils is to be found in the Department of Education and Training (DET) publication 'Making the Partnership Work'.

You could also talk with Elaine or any of the school councillors for further information.

Are there other ways to get involved?

Not everyone can commit the time to being a school councillor. Luckily there are plenty of opportunities to help around Albert Park Primary: You can:

- Join a sub-committee as community member.
- Join a working group to progress a specific issue (eg Library re-establishment group);
- Assist with the organisation of the Fete.
- Be a parent helper in your child's classroom;
- Establish a lunchtime club on something you are passionate about.