

# School Advisory Council

## Annual Report



MELBOURNE  
ARCHDIOCESE  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

School: **Holy Rosary School, Kensington**

Year: **Year ending March 2024**

School Advisory Council Members:

Laura Cochrane (Chair). Leona Jackson (Secretary). Christine Shaw (Principal). Father Thung (Parish Priest). Damian Murray (Parish Representative). Erin Church (Social & Fundraising Group Chair). Maria Sedunary. Rachel Luong. Pilar Abou Haila.

The School Advisory Council Annual Report should acknowledge the activities, achievements and challenges of the council and committees over the past year, reference the council's evaluation, and indicate goals and focus for the following year.

### School's Vision and Mission Statement

The vision of Holy Rosary School is to be a dynamic and inclusive Catholic learning community called to service through our Mercy traditions; to nurture students to be engaged, passionate and successful learners who grow and feel connected in a contemporary world.

The Holy Rosary School Advisory Council Vision and Purpose:

#### Vision

To help enable exceptional learning and wellbeing experiences for the Holy Rosary community.

#### Purpose

Continually improve the tools, spaces and programs that create a passion for learning and nurture connected children and families.

The Vision and Purpose guide how the Advisory Groups:

1. Discuss and discern priority activities;
2. Make suggestions to the Principal on fundraising activities; and
3. Provide parent community feedback.

### School Advisory Council Annual Report

Provide a summary of the council's evaluation process.

Chair completed the MACS evaluation form at the end of the calendar year 2023. This was presented to the Council for discussion as a group.



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<p>What activities were undertaken this year?</p>	<p>In addition to the below activities listed in the 2023 evaluation report, the Council advised the Principal on a number of matters important to parents, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assist and uplift knowledge for parents on how to support student learning at home - including delivery of parent helper sessions</li> <li>2. A desire to move parent teacher interviews to earlier in the year</li> <li>3. The need to update the school reports to be more informative on students' progress and include more commentary.</li> <li>4. The desire to change providers of the school photos.</li> <li>5. Greater integration of the Social and Fundraising Group into the MACS-approved governance model.</li> <li>6. The continued need to think about new and better ways to communicate with parents.</li> <li>7. Addressing the desire for the school to introduce a homework policy / help parents further education at home.</li> </ol>
<p>How successful were these endeavours?</p>	<p>See 2023 evaluation report.</p>
<p>Highlight the greatest achievement(s) of the council.</p>	<p>Governance and processes improvements and updates.</p>
<p>List any committees or working groups.</p>	<p>No official committees in 2023.</p>
<p>What were their activities?</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>List the key achievements or decisions made by these committees.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Outline/summarise the council members' presence at school functions.</p>	<p>Council members attended, or organised (outside of their Council duties) almost all school functions throughout 2023. These included running sausage sizzles on elections days; completing tasks for the Family Fun Day; presenting to the 2024 Prep parent cohort; lending support to teachers for school sporting and extra-curricular activities. The Council members are highly visible members of the school community.</p>



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List any challenges the council encountered.	<p>Topics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How to best support the Social &amp; Fundraising Group Committee, including helping to communicate on where fundraising dollars are and will be used.</li> </ol> <p>Logistics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agenda's often circulated only 1-2 days prior to the meeting.</li> <li>2. Write ups of the meetings did not always make it into the school newsletter.</li> <li>3. Not enough time to discuss all matters at the meeting.</li> </ol>
How were the challenges overcome?	<p>Topics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Constructively discussed as a Council and provided advice to the Principal that the S&amp;FG form a committee of the Council, under the MACS governance framework.</li> </ol> <p>Logistics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Council discussed and agreed to ensure timely meeting of executives members to set the agenda.</li> <li>2. Council discussed agreed to create template to make writing the school newsletter summaries easier.</li> <li>3. Discussed as a Council and decision taken to keep meetings at 1.5 hrs, but with the option to extend for 30 mins if required.</li> </ol>
Was any expert advice invited onto the council? Who, for how long and for what purpose?	No.
What are the goals of the council for next year?	<p>Advise and support the Principal on achieving the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Upgrade the school playground.</li> <li>2. Lift parent knowledge and understanding of academic achievements and progress of students, including:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) more informative school reports (i.e. what has a student achieved who is she/she is below standard/at standard/above standard)</li> <li>(b) actions that increase visibility of learning content/outcomes</li> <li>(c) provision of support resources where appropriate</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Improve the parent communication tools and systems so that they are less overwhelming, more effective and more engaging.</li> <li>4. Strengthen support for the Social &amp; Fundraising Group Committee.</li> <li>5. Celebrating the success of students' achievements.</li> <li>6. Marketing the school to attract students.</li> </ol>
What will be the main focus?	Communication tools/systems.
Did an evaluation of the council take place?	Yes.



