

# Parents as Partners – Mango Hill State School Parent and Community Engagement Framework



Our Community at Mango Hill State School is a diverse community comprising a large range of nationalities and languages. We pride ourselves on being inclusive to all. Genuine parent engagement exists when there is a meaningful relationship between parents and teachers with the shared goal of maximising learning and wellbeing outcomes for students.

**Parent engagement** extends beyond parent involvement in volunteering at the school, to having a deliberate focus on influencing and improvement learning and wellbeing outcomes. Effective parent engagement creates authentic relationships valued by each party.

**Community engagement** refers to the establishment of sustainable relationships with the local community to improve students' learning and wellbeing outcomes and assist students to understand their role in the broader community.

We see strong Parent and Community Partnerships as a strong foundation for a vibrant student learning community. With less than 15% of a student's time spent at school each year, there are many hours in a day, week and year, in which parents, families and the community can guide and influence student's learning opportunities and outcomes through simple, low-cost and even no-cost, interactions.

We connect with our school community in many different ways and we strongly value the partnerships we have with our parent community and our broader local community.

Communication	Partnerships with Parents	Community Collaboration	Decision-Making	School Culture
<p>Effective communication between schools, parents, students and the community forms the foundation for developing and maintaining partnerships. To have a significant impact on student outcomes, communication needs to be focused on student learning and wellbeing.</p>	<p>Quality Partnerships require a reciprocal commitment from staff and parents to work together to improve student learning and wellbeing.</p>	<p>Schools do not exist in isolation – they are often the central hub of their community. Effective collaboration provides opportunities for schools to develop a better understanding of their broader community and to build strong relationships within their local context.</p>	<p>Parent and community involvement in school decision-making encourages greater ownership and ensures local needs are reflected. Decisions about student needs should involve effective consultation and collaboration with stakeholders and open and transparent communication at all stages of the process.</p>	<p>Respectful relationships between the school, students, parents and the school community need to be actively cultivated and valued.</p>

<p><b>How do we ensure effective communication between home and school?</b></p>	<p><b>How can home and school work together, to ensure we maximise learning and wellbeing outcomes for our students?</b></p>	<p><b>How does our local community support our school community?</b></p>	<p><b>How do we ensure school / parent / community consultation and collaboration is encouraging, open and honest?</b></p>	<p><b>How do we establish and nurture a culture that respects and values difference in our whole school community?</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly school newsletter, sent Wednesdays</li> <li>• Term class newsletter, sent at the beginning of each term</li> <li>• Regular parent / teacher emails</li> <li>• Parent / teacher interviews, Term 1, Term 3 and as required</li> <li>• Establish shared set of expectations upon enrolment, respectful relationships and a "way of working" established</li> <li>• Regular school facebook page updates</li> <li>• Meet and Greet with Class Teacher before school starts in January</li> <li>• Welcome letter from Class Teacher before school starts in January</li> <li>• Welcome Night for school community early Term 1</li> <li>• Range of community celebrations such as Diversity Day, Harmony Day, NAIDOC Week, Book Week, Day for Daniel, Jump for CF</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent Teacher Interviews – 5 Questions, in Term 1, Term 3 and as needed</li> <li>• Parent Handouts at Interview to guide parents to help their child</li> <li>• Parent Information Sessions at the start of the year and throughout the year</li> <li>• Prep Transition sessions for parents in Term 4</li> <li>• Parent volunteers welcomed to support in classrooms</li> <li>• Year 6 Graduation in Term 4</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly playgroup for families with children aged 0-5, who live in our community</li> <li>• Relationships with disability organisations - AUSLAN, nurse for PDs (diabetes training etc)</li> <li>• Mental Health Week promoted and celebrated in Term 4</li> <li>• Solid Pathways program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students</li> <li>• PCYC bike education in Term 3</li> <li>• Helping Hands partnership</li> <li>• Local, State and Federal member involvement</li> <li>• Sporting Schools in Term 2 and Term 3</li> <li>• Incursions – Starlab, Chess, Life Ed, Karate, Gardening Club</li> <li>• Cascade community group partnership for Art Gala in Term 3</li> <li>• Ray White partnership for Art Gala in Term 3</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• P&amp;C Meetings each month</li> <li>• Regular parent surveys</li> <li>• Front gate welcome by school leaders each morning and afternoon</li> <li>• Regular parent forums about range of topics for consultation</li> <li>• Student Council meetings for student consultation</li> <li>• School Council Meetings for parent and community consultation</li> <li>• Meetings with student school leaders</li> <li>• Committees as required, for example, graduation, fund raising</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteers welcomed and celebrated</li> <li>• Volunteer induction each term, to induct new volunteers</li> <li>• Volunteer morning tea and thank you in Term 4</li> <li>• Foster sense of belonging through Class, Year Level, Cross Sector in Care Class, Houses</li> <li>• Celebrate diversity: Harmony Day, Diversity Day, Diwali, NAIDOC</li> <li>• Offer interpreters for interviews</li> <li>• Coffee shop and parent / staff seating area</li> <li>• Murals around school to support our shared school and community vision for our school</li> </ul>