



BOARD DIRECTIONAL POLICY	
<i>DIRECTIONAL POLICY TITLE</i>	<i>Policy Number</i>
PARENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS	1000 (New)

TITLE OF DIRECTIONAL POLICY:

Parent and Community Relations

DATE APPROVED:

January 24, 2017

PROJECTED REVIEW DATE:

2021

POLICY:

The Peterborough, Victoria, Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board (PVNCCDSB) values parent, family, parish and community engagement in Catholic education and the positive impact it has on student achievement and well-being. Parent, family, parish and community engagement is a collective responsibility.

Parents and families play an integral role in supporting student learning both in the home and by making valuable contributions to classrooms and schools. The Board welcomes and appreciates the ideas, perspectives and contributions that come from these partnerships. Their collective input informs Board policies, practices and planning processes.

Parents, families, parishes and community members are engaged with the Board in a variety of ways; these include the central Board committees, Catholic School Councils, student councils, and many other working groups, agencies and community partnerships, including community experiential learning program partnerships, which are important components of the Board's operations.

The PVNCCDSB recognizes the need to be proactive, equitable, inclusive and innovative by using diverse strategies to attract input from **all** partners and to facilitate engagement in support of student achievement and well-being.

PURPOSE:

The Parent and Community Relations Directional Policy supports the Ministry of Education's [Parents in Partnership: A Parent Engagement Policy for Ontario Schools](#) (2010), and thereby the development of positive relationships among students, staff, parents/guardians, parish and community members by promoting engagement in Catholic education.

The goals of [Parents in Partnership: A Parent Engagement Policy for Ontario Schools](#) are:

- making schools and the school system accessible and welcoming to parents and other members of the community;
- making sure the public has open access to relevant information about educational policies, programs, and services;
- encouraging meaningful opportunities for input into decision-making at the school and Board level;
- ensuring that community partnerships are nurtured in the service of experiential learning opportunities for students.

ALIGNMENT WITH MULTI-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN:

The Parent and Community Relations Directional Policy supports our vision for achieving excellence in Catholic Education through an unwavering focus on learning, leadership and service. This Vision calls the Board to these Strategic Priorities:

- Ensure our structures, processes, relationships, and actions reflect our Gospel Values and Catholic Social Teachings;
- Implement the most effective, evidenced-based instructional and assessment practices to help all students meet the Catholic School Graduate Expectations;
- Embed technology to support digital literacy, creativity, innovation, collaboration, and the learning needs of all students;
- Develop the intellectual, spiritual, mental, physical, and emotional well-being of students in safe, diverse, respectful, and faith-filled learning environments;
- Implement fair and transparent processes in recruitment, leadership, talent development, and succession planning to ensure our employees have the necessary knowledge, skills, and attributes to support our Vision.

RESPONSIBILITIES:**The Board of Trustees is responsible for:**

- defining, articulating and directing the PVNC Catholic District School Board mandate to support parent and community relations in a Catholic learning community supported by the Multi-Year Strategic Plan;
- reviewing and considering for approval the Parent and Community Relations Directional Policy recommended for consideration by the Policy Development Committee;
- understanding and communicating with members of the community the content of the Parent and Community Relations Directional Policy;
- assigning responsibility to the Director of Education for operationalizing and managing the Parent and Community Relations Directional Policy;
- monitoring and holding the Director of Education accountable for the implementation and operational details of the Parent and Community Relations Directional Policy;
- receiving input from community partners and serving as a conduit for community views and ideas that support the Board's mission, vision, and values.

The Director of Education is responsible for:

- providing leadership regarding implementation and operational details in the Parent and Community Relations Policy;
- providing direction to staff in the development of administrative procedures and practices to ensure implementation of the Parent and Community Relations Policy;
- promoting parent, family, parish and community engagement with staff and the community.

The Superintendents are responsible for:

- supporting the promotion of parent, family, parish and community engagement with staff and the community;
- supporting the implementation of the Parent and Community Relations Directional Policy.

Principals, Managers and Supervisors are responsible for:

- providing leadership to ensure the effective implementation of the Parent and Community Relations Directional Policy;
- supporting staff in understanding and implementing effective parent, family, parish and community engagement that supports student achievement and well-being, which includes that all parents:
 - are welcomed, respected and valued by the school community as partners in their children’s learning and development;
 - have opportunities to be involved, and also a full range of choices about how to be involved, in the educational community to support student success;
 - are engaged with other educational partners through ongoing communication, dialogue and timely feedback, to support a positive learning environment at home and at school;
 - are supported with the information and tools necessary to participate in school life.
- identifying and removing barriers to parent engagement that may prevent some parents from fully participating in their children’s learning;
- creating processes to seek diverse voices of our students and their communities;
- reviewing and expanding communication and outreach strategies to share information and strategies related to supporting learning at home and parent engagement in schools.

Staff Members are responsible for:

- knowing and understanding the Parent and Community Relations Directional Policy;
- fostering a commitment to parent, family, parish and community engagement; and
- supporting and implementing strategies that enhance engagement by parents, family, parishes and the community to support student achievement and well-being, including:
 - fostering and sustaining a positive, welcoming school climate in which all parent perspectives are encouraged, valued and heard;

- identifying and removing barriers to parent engagement that may prevent some parents from fully participating in their children’s learning and to reflect the diversity of our students and communities;
- provide parents with the knowledge, skills and tools they need to support student learning at home and at school.

Students are responsible for:

- fostering a commitment to parent, family, parish and community engagement; and
- supporting the engagement of their families and community in their achievement and well-being.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) are responsible for:

- supporting parent, family, parish and community engagement;
- understanding that they have an important role in fostering parent, family, parish and community engagement;
- fostering and developing relationships and partnerships with the PVNC Catholic District School Board to support student achievement and well-being, including:
- having productive conversations with teachers so that there is clear communication between the school and the home;
- becoming involved in school activities and, where possible, volunteering to help with school events, trips and other activities;
- providing a positive learning environment at home, actively working with children to support what they are learning in school, and making learning an important part of the day.

PROGRESS INDICATORS:

- Catholic School Community Profiles reflect parent and community relations as strengths of the school communities;
- Bi-annual School Climate Surveys reflect the voices of parents in each school community.

According to Ontario’s Vision for Parent Engagement, students are supported and inspired to learn in a culture of high expectations in which parents:

- are respected, welcomed and valued by the school community as partners in their children’s learning and development;

- have opportunities to be involved, and also a full range of choice about how to be involved, in the educational community to support student success;
- are engaged through ongoing communication and dialogue with other educational partners to support a positive learning environment at home and at school;
- are supported with the information and the tools necessary to participate in school life.

DEFINITIONS:*Parent, Family and Community Engagement*

Parent, Family and Community Engagement refers to the interdependent relationships and partnerships established to support student achievement and well-being in alignment with the Ministry of Education’s Parent Involvement Policy. Parent, family, and community engagement also refers to engaging people at various levels within the organization and the community. This can occur in a variety of contexts; at home, in the community, in the classroom, at school, within families of schools, and at the Board. This engagement also supports the development of strategic, cooperative, collaborative partnerships with parents, communities, agencies, businesses, and others.

REFERENCES:

Good Governance: A Guide for Trustees, School Boards, Directors of Education and Communities. OESC, 2014

[*Parents in Partnership: A Parent Engagement Policy for Ontario Schools*](#) (2010),

Related Administrative Procedures:

AP 601 - Catholic School Council

AP 602 - Catholic Parent Engagement Committee

AP 703 - Opening Blessing: Schools and Additions

AP 705 - Supporting Community Concerns

AP 707 - Volunteers in Our Schools