

Thorndon School Policy on Community Consultation and Partnership

Rationale

Learning is enhanced if a partnership is established between the School and its community because:

- Parents can be engaged and involved in a meaningful way with their children's learning experience;
- Other key sectors of our community can support and enhance the range of resources available to our students;
- All community stakeholders can take ownership of and contribute to the achievement of the vision, goals and objectives of our school.

Effective consultation is the basis of this partnership.

Purpose

- To develop closer relationships between in-school and out-of-school learning
- To involve parents in the education of their children
- To recognise students' experiences and interests in making decisions about learning
- To recognise parents' right to influence the way in which the school is governed and managed
- To seek feedback and utilise a wide range of resources from individuals, groups and organisations – where relevant to school programmes and other activities.
- To reflect in the school the unique character, culture and qualities of the community

Guidelines

- Efforts are made to consult effectively with all groups within the school community. According to the circumstances, these groups included staff, parents, whanau, tangata whenua, former students and staff, website users and local resource institutions and businesses.

1. The Principal and staff consult with parents and the community when:
 - Required by legislation, policies and procedures
 - Developing and reviewing policies and procedures where consultation may be appropriate
 - Applying any sensitive areas of the curriculum
2. The Board of Trustees consults with parents and the community when:
 - developing and reviewing the charter
 - concluding the strategic plan
 - developing and reviewing policies and procedures, as appropriate
 - required by legislation, policies and procedures.
3. Consultation may take a variety of forms: newsletters, surveys, meetings and the school website. Innovative and user friendly ways to seek feedback from the school community will be investigated.
4. Parents are made to feel welcome in the classroom and are invited to go on class outings and be involved in class activities
5. Efforts are made to consult effectively with all groups within the school community.

Review Date: Term1, 2007