

Bounty Boulevard State School



*Parent and Community
Engagement Framework*

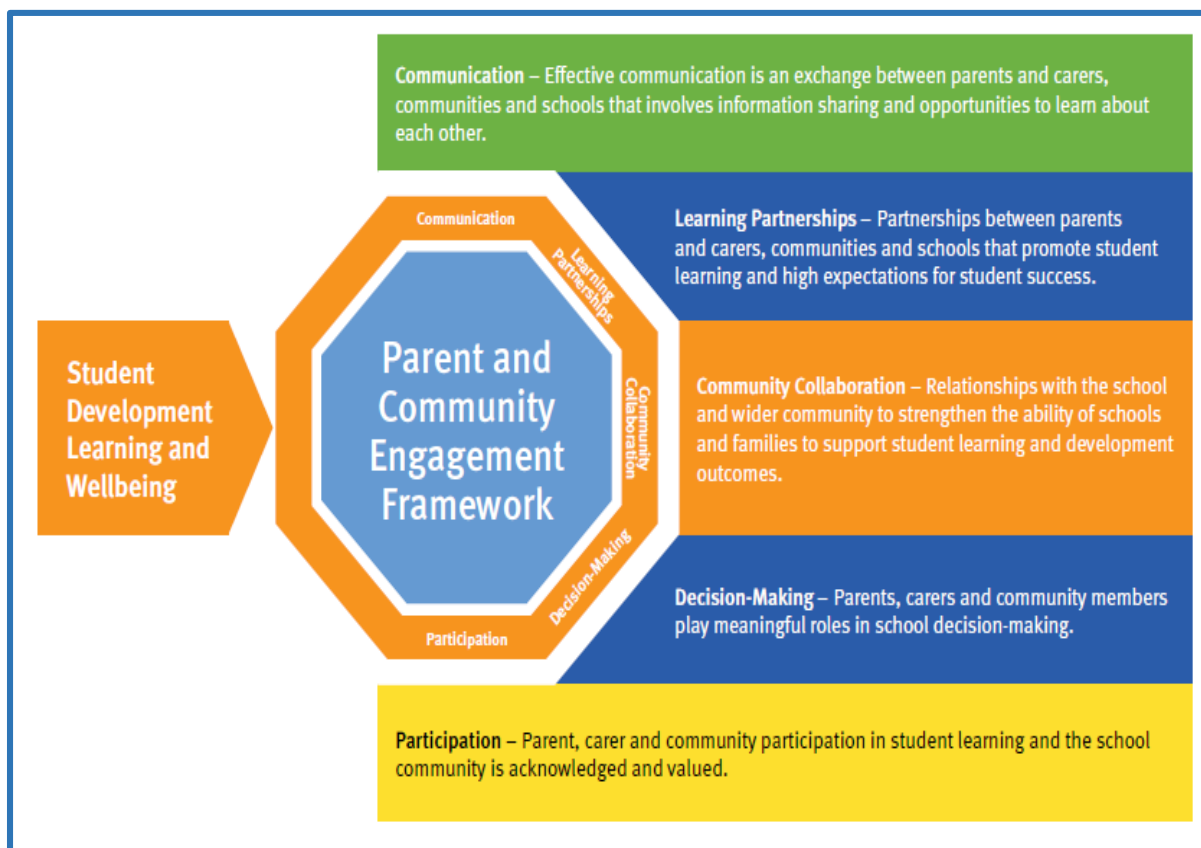
Purpose

Parents* and the broader community play a vital role in supporting successful learning outcomes for our children. The Bounty Boulevard State School Parent and Community Engagement Framework highlights the importance of engaging with our parents and local communities to work together to maximise student learning outcomes.

The education of our students is a shared responsibility, benefiting all students, our society and the economy as a whole. Therefore, parents and broader communities have a reciprocal responsibility to engage with schools and play a major role in supporting and enhancing the learning journey of all students.

At **Bounty Boulevard State School**, we believe that we are better able to support student achievement by developing strong engagement with and between:

- Students
- Teachers
- Parents and carers
- Support staff
- Community, industry and business groups



Parent Community Engagement Policy

(2015-2019)

MARKERS OF STRONG PARENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

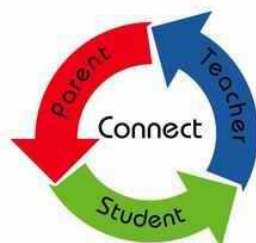
- Parents are encouraged to take a genuine and close interest in the work of the school, are acknowledged as the first teachers of their children, and engage as partners in their children's learning
- Communication with parents provides information about where students are up to in their learning, what progress they have made over time and what they might do to support their children's further learning
- Respectful and caring relationships are reflected in the ways in which staff, students and parents interact and in the language they use in both formal and informal settings
- Schools have regular and ongoing ways of finding out what parents need to engage with their child's learning
- Parents can list the school's key expectations for behaviour, attendance, homework
- The principal and the teachers use many styles of communication appropriate for parents' cultural backgrounds, availability, working conditions etc
- The principal and teachers regularly connect with the parent/s of every child in the school
- There are mechanisms to build relationships with relevant members of the community.

CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT

The *Teaching and Learning Audit Dimension 3 – a culture that promotes learning* provides a mechanism for schools to review their parent and community engagement.

The School Opinion Survey also provides schools with valuable data to reflect upon the effectiveness of their parent and community engagement.

School and Community Partnerships is one of the central elements for inclusion in the Annual Implementation Plan and School Plan.



Communication

Effective communication between schools, parents, the community and students forms the foundation in developing and maintaining partnerships. Schools also have the responsibility to help parents understand the language of learning.

At **Bounty Boulevard State School**, we could communicate effectively with parents and our wider school community by:

Achieving

- Engaging respectfully both formally and informally
- Reporting to parents with 2 formal reports per year
- Classes sending out weekly newsletters / emails (not across whole school)
- Communication via fortnightly newsletters, twitter, website, school sign, P&C Facebook, Parent Liaisons
- Parent / teacher interviews
- Notice Board
- Digital sign
- Childcare facility with close communication
- Parents invited to class celebrations at end of units / end of term – not across whole school
- QSchools app
- Parent Liaisons – not across whole school
- School Defence Transition Aide supports our Defence families
- Information nights
- Gold card system – certificates awarded / Rewards Day
- [Website](#) / [Facebook](#) / [Twitter](#) / [Emails](#) / [PL](#) / [Newsletter](#) / [Electronic sign](#)

Aspiring

- Whole school approach to communication
- Clear expectations of student goals with all 3 parties – teacher / parent / student
- Term 1 & Term 3 interviews
- Set expectations for parents to meet the teacher
- Student led conferences
- School to establish BBSS Facebook page and promote a positive message – and appoint a moderator
- Utilise local print media (Messenger) and QUT radio to share positive student news items
- Cohort consistency in communication – all year levels doing the same
- Cohort newsletters to parents from teachers
- Have 100% 'by-in' to class Parent Liaisons
- Video tape sessions e.g. reading workshops allowing working parents to view
- Consistent process in parent teacher interviews across the whole school to establish literacy, numeracy and behaviour goals for each student. Term 1 Week 5 & Term 3 Week 5
- Afterhours or vodcast workshops / family nights for working families
- Parents of EALD students have a clear understanding of the level of support offered
- Informing parents so they have clarity around communication protocols to promote multi-modal approach
- Involvement in class performances / assemblies – provision adequate notice to parents
- Teachers to share work with other teachers organised through the HOC

- Clear communication to parents of the importance of student attendance and its link to continuity of learning time.
- A method of passing on non-urgent information that involves least possible interruption to all staff (better use of pigeon holes/mailling baskets?)
- Minimal use of phone calls/announcements during learning time
- More regular communication between parents / teachers
- Text messages for absences
- Parent showcase events
- Parent coffee / info afternoon with class teachers
- Personalise report card comments
- Pupil Free Day timeline for notification of student class lists for 2016
- Celebrating successes
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Learning Partnerships

Learning is not limited to the classroom. The beliefs, expectations and experience of parents is a powerful determinant in student's achievement. Understanding the school, home and community contribution to student learning helps cultivate a holistic learning environment.

At **Bounty Boulevard State School**, we could support learning partnerships with parents and our wider school community through:

Achieving

- Parent workshops
- Early Years Networks (pre-school)
- Parent liaisons – emails / notes
- Class specific workshops
- International Day to promote the multi-culturalism of our school. Expand the 'Multicultural Day' to include community members with cooking demonstrations, dances, traditional clothing etc.
- Business Alliances– (Bunnings supplying prep with materials)
- Parent information evenings at beginning of the year
- Cultivate educational alliance with North Lakes State College, Mango Hill State School, Moreton Downs State School & Regional and Central Office
- Visiting aged care facility with choirs
- Teacher email to parents
- Links with tertiary institutions such as QUT Caboolture
- Promote Early-childhood partnerships to augment transition to school
- Book-a-night
- Homework with Reading Eggs etc
- Before school reading support
- Lunchtime clubs –Supa club
- Supporting, promoting and acknowledging our volunteers through events such as morning teas
- Year 6 engagement with QUT

Aspiring

- Visiting aged care facilities (reading)
- Continuing to embed indigenous perspectives
- Invite parents who have skills to offer, to enhance our educational and physical environment e.g. police, nursing etc.
- Create partnerships with local businesses e.g involve Bunnings / Costco etc
- Adding performances to some assemblies
- Invite the retired community to assist in school programs
- Continue to provide timely parent workshops
- Provide clarity of parent/teacher expectations and clearly communicate these
- During our meet and greet evenings staff will clarify student and parent expectations for the year.
- Clarify within each year level homework expectations
- Curriculum & homework overview sent to parents each term so parents know language & content being taught in class
- End of term, parents share in classroom learning celebration
- Facebook class page / group
- Curriculum overview – what are kids learning / how can parents assist. Provision of curriculum overview each term
- Clarification of curriculum terminology eg. Partitioning, incursion
- Avoid educational jargon in parent communications

Community Collaboration

Schools do not exist in isolation – they are often the central hub of their community. Schools should leverage their position in the community to work together with other community members, for the benefit of all.

At **Bounty Boulevard State School**, we could actively pursue community collaboration through:

Achieving

- Continue to inform parents of our ICSEA data
- Renting out school facilities to local community group e.g. sporting groups, tuition, church groups
- Continue to network to promote wrap-around services for our students through clean access to government agencies e.g. Department of Community Services, Qld Health services, Qld Police services, Local, State and Federal governments, Regional and Central Education offices, University QUT, USQ, U3A, pre service teachers, Life Education programs P – 6, Department of Transport, provision of program to educate children around respectful behaviour of women in our families, school, community (Violence against women' program by the Federal Government)
- Educational services: Fire Safety department, dental services, Adopt-a-cop
- Kids Capers/other private providers – pre enrolment visit
- Choir visit to aged care facilities
- Networking with neighbouring schools
- Strong early years partnerships with day-care and kindy
- Music in the community
- Transition network with NLSC
- Groups using the facilities

- Parenting programs
- Transitions with childcare centres
- Inform parents of the necessary skills to begin Prep

Aspiring

- Adopt-a-cop program – build further / curriculum linked
- EAL/D student / family support – use external services & groups and interpreting agencies
- School to offer hearing & vision testing (University students)
- Involve indigenous community within the school
- Advertise in school newsletter
- Offer pre-prep program – 1 session weekly
- Open night –showcase for local businesses and community to see what we do and how they can support us
- Create database of professionals in the parent body i.e. nutritionist / nurse / dentist / fire fighters
- Fundraising - Twilight Market / Fete
- Send out certificates to community groups thanking them for their support
- Create a local business directory
- Tennis courts – for hire for community use
- Sporting groups use of facilities
- Café – cooking demonstrations
- Community garden
- Personal well-being workshops
- Building authentic partnerships with local groups e.g. Lions Club, YMCA and other local environmental groups
- Reading support program with local retirement village ie bus the local residents to us

Decision Making

Providing opportunities for relevant consultation ensures decisions reflect local needs – whether for an individual student or the school as a whole. Greater community ownership and trust of school directions and decisions can be developed through open and authentic consultation.

At **Bounty Boulevard State School**, we could provide opportunities for open and authentic consultation in our school and with our greater school community by:

Achieving

- School Council, P&C, LCC, student council
- Survey to parents – invited to participate
- Consult with EAL/D communities
- Equal representation from P – Yr 6
- Newsletters / Webpage
- Survey monkey
- P&C – shorter meetings increased attendance
- Webpage / Facebook – comments and suggestions
- Community noticeboard utilised outside front office
- Thank you to our volunteers and sponsors

Aspiring

- Establishing a school council
- More involvement from the parent community – attend P&C – curriculum involvement
- Consult community more using emails / web page
- Strengthen Parent Liaisons through regular meetings; give them clarity over their role (job description). Additional roles e.g. Book a night
- Give parents clear expectations e.g. homework
- P&C / School council / School – making consistency exists across all 3
- Breakfast P&C meeting or early meeting
- Consider parent blog site on the school webpage with school/parent guidelines for positive discussion
- Focus groups / interest groups for parents to discuss with appropriate leader
- Place on website how to contact your child's class teacher
- Year level planning – yearly overview with events
- Consultation outside of P&C with parents – other avenues e.g. inviting local indigenous elders to participate on school council
- Utilising Facebook – schools own page
- More accountability
- Mail is important
- School council
- Survey more frequently
- More print communication
- Text messaging to parents
- QSchools App – use push notifications to ensure parent gets message
- Have a central point of truth for information rather than information overload
- P&C Meetings – Topics to be timed / over time topics move to end or held over to next time / meetings to last 1.5 hrs max
- Utilise the messenger / Quest newspapers with good news stories
- Utilise the Retirement Village residents

Participation

In a society where parents lead complex lives, opportunities to participate in a variety of ways, times and places is key to improvement. Parent and community participation in student learning and the school community should be acknowledged and valued. This involvement sends a clear signal to students about the value of education.

At **Bounty Boulevard State School**, we could acknowledge and value the participation of our parents and community through:

Achieving

- Offer volunteer times first thing in the morning
- 'Help Box' – parents know they can cut, laminate etc. at any time
- Volunteers have the opportunity to help in other areas
- Class PL (Parent Liaisons)
- Assisting with excursions
- Harmony Day / Harmony Day assembly
- End of year volunteers thank you morning tea and certificate presentation
- Electronic sign
- Newsletters / Emails
- Student ministries

- Community members participating in special school events i.e defence members on ANZAC /Remembrance Day assemblies.

Aspiring

- Harmony Day – make it bigger!
- Morning tea thank you to our volunteers at the end of each term / semester
- Communicate to parents how much we need their help for certain activities - suggest at the beginning of the year, send regular emails to remind and invite
- Give parents a yearly overview of what events are happening at the beginning of the year
- Invite parents to speak at special events / assemblies
- Celebrate Grandparents day across the whole school
- Provide feedback to volunteers
- Provide training for volunteers e.g. support a reader
- Ask the police, fire fighters etc. to speak to the school community – support school programs
- Communicate to volunteers that there are many areas that they can help / be involved with
- Acknowledge and thank volunteers by way of: coffee and cake vouchers, uniform discounts, volunteer raffle
- Utilising the 10 minutes before pick-up for parents / carers to classroom assist
- Place articles in the NL messenger, (local free magazine distributed to the NL community), advertising up-coming events
- Staff to wear an 'EQ' shirt
- Have a volunteer coordinator
- Time-management a problem for teachers when organising events e.g. fire service visit for 8 classes – require longer notice
- Term planning of events – better communication to school community
- All staff to use TeamSite calendar, suggest term planner whiteboard in staffroom
- Have a better induction planning
- 'Out of Hours' activities for working parents
- New Teachers – buddy up with an experienced teacher, formal process
- Whole year calendar onsite at the beginning of the year
- Staff ID photo's - Cohort / DP / support staff to be displayed on website and around school – benefit both parents, students and other staff
- All teachers offer opportunity for parents to help in class – share this with all teachers
- Volunteers - careful not to overuse them. Ask a volunteer to bring a friend, thank them, be organised, give them notice, give specific jobs to be filled
- Develop a database of parent and community skills, talent and availability to draw on when required
- Parent participation in events organisation