Seymour College
PO Box 266, Seymour, VIC 3661
T (03) 5771 1300
F (03) 5792 4041
seymour.co@edumail.vic.gov.au
www.seymourcollege.vic.edu.au

Seymour College

Parents & Friends Association Policy

Date Implemented	20th September 2017
Author	Derek Rimes
Approved By	College Council / Policies Sub-Committee
Approval Authority (Signature & Date)	Gail Hardman 20-9-17
Date Reviewed	
Responsible for Review	Assistant Principal
Review Date	August 2020
References	

RATIONALE
Parents and Friends of the College provide our school with significant resources, insights and expertise. A Parents and Friends Association not only benefits students, but enriches and contributes to the wellbeing of the school community through positive interaction and support.

Parents and school staff are partners in children's education. By interacting with the school and other parents, Parents and Friends Association members gain a firsthand understanding of how schools operate and the rhythm of school life. Parents participating in a school's Parents and Friends Association can use, and build on, their skills and confidence, develop friendships and work collaboratively with other parents interested in supporting the school.

ROLE
The role of a Parents and Friends Association to:

- Provide support, in various forms, for the College, its students and community
- Work in cooperation with the principal, staff and College Council in building effective partnerships between home and school
- A parents and friends club is not a sub-committee of college council and has no formally prescribed powers or duties

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
The Parents and Friends Association's aims and objectives should be consistent with the powers accorded to, and duties of, the College Council:

- to contribute to the wellbeing of the College community

- to encourage the participation of all parents in the life of the College and the education of their children
- to provide opportunities for all parents of students of the College to discuss issues concerned with the welfare and the general education policy of the College and to assist in the development of a shared parent view
- to contribute to proposals on College policy and other educational issues to the College Council
- to provide opportunities for parents to get to know each other and to be informed about their child's school
- to provide information for parents to extend their understanding of College issues
- to work in cooperation with the College Council and the principal
- to raise funds for the benefit of the College.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Our school values and actively encourages parent involvement.
- Meetings will be held monthly and will be advertised in all College media one week prior.
- Opportunities for parental involvement will be advertised regularly in the school newsletter and on the school website.
- Parents actively involved in the school will feature in our newsletter.
- Students will formally recognise the contributions of parents in our school by means of an annual Student Representative Council morning tea.
- Feedback will be sought from parents as their perceptions regarding parental involvement at school.
- Members will work in consultation and agreement with the principal and will be encouraged to assist with school events, functions and fundraising activities.
- Parents and Friends Association shall not be for profit or gain of its individual members.

OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- The operational requirements of the Parents and Friends Association are detailed in the Constitution. These requirements include: membership, office bearers, meetings, voting and representation on College Council.

FINANCE

The Parents and Friends Association will run a separate financial account and will be maintained for the purpose of:

(a) the administrative functions of the Parents and Friends Club; and
(b) the raising of funds by the Parents and Friends Club for the benefit of the school.

The Parents and Friends Association will organise its account via a separate subprogram maintained for the Parents and Friends Association within the College's official account. If the Parents and Friends Association plans to raise funds by means of a raffle or bingo or other minor gambling activities, permission and instructions must be obtained from the Victorian Commission for Gambling Regulation

FUNDRAISING

The Parents and Friends Association may undertake fundraising activities, with the prior approval of the College Council, having as their object the establishment or augmentation of College funds or funds for a particular College purpose.

The College Council must not reject a fundraising activity until it has considered a recommendation by a committee consisting of:

- the President of the College Council or the President's nominee, who must be the chairperson; and
- one other representative of the College Council elected for the purpose by the College Council; and
- 2 representatives of the Parents and Friends Association; and
- the principal.

Source: Education and Training Reform Regulations 2007

The Parents and Friends Association's finances will be audited along with those of the College. Where funds raised are used to establish or augment College funds, the College Council will determine how the funds are

expended after consultation with the Parents and Friends Association and the principal as to what is most desirable in the interests of the College.

EXPECTATIONS

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the college's review cycle.

This policy will be made available on the College's website.

1. This policy was ratified by College Council on 20/09/2017

Child Safe Standards

"Victorian government schools are child safe environments. Seymour College actively promotes the safety and wellbeing of all students, and all school staff are committed to protecting students from abuse or harm in the school environment in accordance with their legal obligations including the Child Safe Standards. The College's Child Safety Code of Conduct is available on the school's website."