

GLADSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL

6. PARENT – SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS and CONSULTATION

RATIONALE

The Board will consult with the school's community and be responsive to its educational needs.

Consultation is a continuous long-term process, which should aim to establish communication between school and community and sharing of viewpoints.

PURPOSES

1. To enhance learning by establishing a responsive and effective partnership with the school's community.
2. To establish processes and adopt strategies which are adaptable and appropriate.
3. To continue to enhance our school-community partnership.
4. To ensure we meet our commitment to consult with our Maori and Pasifika communities to make known to them and our wider community the policies, plans and targets for improving the achievement of our Maori/Pasifika students.
5. To consult annually with our community about our Health Education Programme.

GUIDELINES

1. A welcoming, warm school atmosphere, which acknowledges the value of parent support and partnership, should be developed. Opportunities to encourage parents to visit and communicate with the school should be fostered; e.g.
 - Gladstone Community Group
 - Student/parent orientation visits - New Entrant/New Enrolments
 - Report and curriculum information evenings
 - School functions: drama and musical productions, sports events, fundraising activities, Exhibitions of learning
2. Strategies which are already successful should be used and extended; e.g.
 - Prospectus
 - Newsletters, including Board of Trustees' Update
 - Learning conversation documents and discussions
 - Liaison between Board of Trustees and Gladstone Community Group
 - Parent surveys on special issues
 - Meetings to discuss special issues
 - Involvement of parents in school review and development initiatives
 - Class and School Facebook pages
 - Class and School blogs
 - Website

3. In sharing information and decision-making with the school community the following are important:
 - promoting opportunities for collaboration
 - using simple (jargon-free) language
 - planning and budgeting for the process of collaboration
 - allowing room for community initiative
 - being prepared to trial new strategies
4. Consideration should be given to using culturally appropriate styles and venues in the local community (outside the school) to meet with parents. Similarly community agencies can provide an avenue for school information to be disseminated via their regular channels of communication, e.g., community resource centres, church groups, service clubs etc.
5. Consultation must be viewed as a cyclic, on-going process: one that is planned, managed by the BOT/Principal and linked to school and Charter development and review. Plans for community partnership should be designed to be realistic, workable, appropriate, flexible and far-reaching.

Dave Shadbolt _____ Fiona Barker _____
(Principal) (Chairperson)