



# St. Elizabeth's Parish School Dandenong North

## School Education Board

### ROLE

The School Education Board is the principal body associated with education in the Parish School. Its purpose is to bring together, in a formal way, all the important parties connected with education at the Parish School: the Parish Priest and the Principal, parents, teachers, and other groups involved with education in the school community. The Education Board acts as a forum for discussion on matters concerning education in the Parish School so that responsible and informed advice can be given to the Parish Priest and Principal. It enables the people of our Parish School community to share their wisdom and thus enrich the decision making process that guides our Parish School towards achieving its mission with respect to all children in the Parish.

The School Education Board draws its vision and spirit from the Second Vatican Council. In so doing, it reflects the teaching of Vatican 11 on the mission of the Church and the call for the laity to share in this mission.

The Council said:

*“Offering an obvious example of the apostolate on the community level is the parish, inasmuch as it brings together the many human differences found within its boundaries and draws them into the universality of the Church. The laity should accustom themselves to working in the parish in close union with their priests, bringing to the Church community their own and the world’s problems as well as questions concerning human salvation, all of which should be examined and resolved by common deliberation. As far as possible, the laity ought to collaborate energetically in every apostolic and missionary undertaking sponsored by the local parish” (M Abbot S J (ed1) The Documents of Vatican11. Decree of the Apostolate of the Laity. P 501).*

It is essential that members of the Board work towards understanding one another on the basis of trust and respect. The measure of this mutual respect will be reflected in the success of the Board in achieving community participation in decision-making.

Cooperation, collaboration, consultation and communication will be the keynotes of the Board’s spirit and mode of operation.

The Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education speaking about the Catholic School states:

*“For the Catholic School, mutual respect means service to the person of Christ. Co-operation is between brothers and sisters in Christ. A policy of working for the common good is undertaken seriously as working for the building up of the kingdom of God. The co-operation required for the realization of this aim is a duty in conscience for all the members of the community - teachers, parents, students and administrative personnel. Each has his or her own part to play. Cooperation of all given in the spirit of the Gospel is by its very nature a witness, not only to Christ, as the cornerstone of the community, but also as the light who shines far beyond it.”*  
*(The Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education “The Catholic School” 1977 para. 60-1)*