



community reference group

What is the purpose of this policy?

This Community Engagement Policy is an expression of Trinity Grammar School's commitment to the local communities in which our campuses are located through the use of appropriate, effective and inclusive engagement practices.

The School is committed to engaging effectively with the communities in the vicinity of our campuses in a meaningful, accountable and responsive way. This policy outlines the School's position and commitment to ensure community engagement is integrated into all of our activities. We seek to build relationships and strengthen the School's place in the community and to understand the communities in which we are located.

The Community Engagement Policy applies to any school activities or projects. The Policy covers information giving and the receipt of community comments. Community engagement is the responsibility of all our staff.

What is community engagement?

We define Community engagement as the range of opportunities for public participation, relationship building and community strengthening. Community engagement is achieved when the community understands issues that affect them.

Community engagement is a two way process that connects the School with the community. Effective community engagement has benefits for the community and the School. A regular two-way sharing of information will lead to greater understanding. Effective engagement is often described in terms of a balanced combination of principles that include:

- Clear, relevant and timely communication
- Inclusiveness, responsiveness and cooperation
- Acting with integrity and honesty.

To ensure best practice, our community engagement commitments are guided by the Core Values and Code of Ethics of the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2). The School's approach to community engagement is based on IAP2's Spectrum of Public Participation. The Spectrum outlines different levels of engagement based on the purpose of the community engagement and the 'promise to the public'. It provides suggestions for tools and techniques for differing levels of engagement.

Our Commitment to the Community

We endeavour to be a good neighbour. The School's Community Engagement Policy is built upon a set of commitments that guide the planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and continuous improvement of our community engagement approach.

We commit to:

- the principle that communities should have an understanding of issues and activities that have the potential to impact them;
- a two way flow of information where the School will provide clear accurate information and encourage communities and stakeholders to raise issues and provide feedback;
- listening to and being respectful of the communities in which our campuses are located;
- informing and involving communities and stakeholders about current and future school activities or plans.

There is no single approach to community engagement; a variety of methods will be used to reach all the stakeholders in our local community. The School will provide community updates via our website under the 'Trinity in the Local Community' tab. We welcome your suggestions about how you would like to receive information from the School and how you would like to raise issues and provide feedback.

If you have any questions relating to the School's approach to community engagement or any issues about the School please do hesitate to contact Stephen Heanly, Director of Community Relations, crq@trinity.nsw.edu.au or call 9581 6000.

Tim Bowden | Head Master

