

Parents Council - 2011

Aim of the Parents Council is:

To be a representative body for the parents of the students of OLM, where the valued opinions of parents can be heard by school personnel. The Council aims to develop a partnership between the home and the school to benefit the pupils in school.

The purpose of the committee:

• *The committee will be:*

1. A consultative body with whom the school can consult with around school development and policy.
2. A support group which will support the school in ensuring improved learning outcomes for the students.
3. An information sharing group which will be kept informed of developments in the school. Members of the council will bring this information to other parents which they represent.
4. A place where issues of concern which may impinge on the student's education are raised and discussed.
5. A group to support specific school projects through fundraising for the purpose of improving outcomes for the students.

• *Parents expressed the following expectations for the group:*

1. To support and help the school in order to make it better for the child.
2. To hear what is going on in the school in particular the achievements of the students.
3. To be part of what is going on in the school.
4. To be a link between the Board of Management and the Parents Council.
5. To be a voice for the parent body of the school.
6. To help improve things for the students sake.
7. To help the school out in any way in order to make things better for everyone.
8. Having being involved in the Primary Schools these parents know the value of a Parents Council to them, to the school and particularly to the students.
9. To be involved for the child's sake who is at the centre of all our work.
10. To be professional in how it operates, to respect all in the school community and meet to not discuss personal issues.

• **Membership:**

Membership of the Association shall be open to Parents and Guardians of all pupils attending Our Lady of Mercy Secondary School. A teacher representative(s) of the school shall be eligible to attend and participate at meetings of the association without voting rights.

1. The Parents Council shall consist of:
 - a. At least five parents (to represent each year group). Plus the three officerships (Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer)
 - b. Maximum of ten parents.
 - c. The Principal or representative.
2. The committee shall elect a Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer.
3. Out-going members of the committee shall be eligible for re-election to the committee.
4. A committee member may hold officership for two consecutive years often which he/she may be re-elected at the AGM.
5. A parent can sit on the committee for a maximum of 5 years.
6. Should a vacancy occur during the year, the committee may co-opt another member to fill the vacancy.
7. The committee shall meet at least five times during the school year.

• **How the Parents Council is formed?**

An AGM shall be held every year. All parents and guardians will be entitled to attend and vote. The school will inform all parents/guardians of the meeting and will ask them to send nominations to the school in advance of the AGM. Parents can also nominate on the day of the meeting. All nominations have to be seconded. On the day of the AGM voting will take place if there are more nominations than vacancies on the committee. All positions on the committee will be filled at the AGM (i.e. Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer)

• **Finance:**

1. The committee shall open a Credit Union account in the name of Our Lady of Mercy Secondary School – Parents Council.
2. Withdrawals must be signed by any two of the following officers – Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Principal or Teacher representative.
3. The expenditure by the committee shall be accounted for by the presentation of accounts at the AGM. A statement of expenditure to be given to the school at end of May.
4. The Parents Council may raise funds by whatever legal means decided by the committee.
5. The Hon Treasurer shall keep a full account of all sums of money received and expended.
6. No officer or member of the committee shall order any goods or service on the account of the council without approval of the committee.

Note: Concern with the professional competence of individual teacher or involvement in the education training of the school shall not be a function of this association.

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on _____.

Signed: _____
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: _____
Principal

Date: _____

Date: _____

Date of next review: _____

