RATIONALE:

Parents play an important role in the school education of their children and the culture of the school. Church documentation clearly emphasises the important role that parents play in Catholic Education. Parents’ participation in the formal education or schooling of their children is a key factor in achieving improved educational outcomes for students. They also add goodwill, harmony and enthusiasm to the community and focus of our school.

Our Church documents state:

- Parents “must be recognised as the primary and principal educators of their children.” (n.3, Declaration of Christian Education)
- Catholic Education in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle recognises the family as the true context of the education process, promotes the partnership of home, parish and school, and acknowledges their right to participation. (Diocesan Vision Statement, 1992)
- “The role of parents in education is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute.” (2221, Catechism of the Catholic Church)
- “There must be the closest co-operation between parents and the teachers to whom they entrust their children to be educated. In fulfilling their task, teachers are to collaborate with the parents and willingly listen to them; associations and meeting of parents are to be set up and held in high esteem.” (Canon 796, Code of Canon Law)
- “Everything that the Catholic educator does in a school takes place within the structure of an educational community, made up of the contacts and collaboration of the various groups – students, parents, teachers, directors, non-teaching staff – that together are responsible for making the school an instrument for integral formation.” (n22 Lay Catholics in Schools: Witnesses to faith)
AIMS:

- To enhance the spiritual, academic, emotional, psychological and cultural development of students.
- To encourage parents, and parish communities to work in partnership so that all students have the opportunity to reach their full potential.
- To promote co-operation and interdependence between home and school.
- To show parents that they are valued and their participation is celebrated.
- To build a sense of school family.

IMPLEMENTATION:

In an environment of inclusion we encourage parents to:

- Foster rapport between home, school and parish.
- Provide opportunity for ongoing dialogue on issues affecting their children’s education.
- Provide a link between the learning that occurs outside the school and the educational programs in the school.
- Co-operate with school staff, other parents and students in the interest of their child’s education.
- Show an active interest in their children’s schooling.
- Volunteer for retell, intervention, library, art, sport, canteen duty or other if able.
- Contribute to the formulation of school mission.
- Contribute to the development of the school’s values and expectations and support their realisation.

In an environment of inclusion the Principal and teachers will:

- Consult with parents.
- Make available Professional Development opportunities through the system.
- Endeavour to provide parents with information that is relevant to their children’s education.
- Meet with parents whenever appropriate.
- Be supportive and helpful to our school families.
- Encourage our parents to take ownership of their school.
- Help parents to feel welcome in the classroom.
- Seek the views of parents on matters relating to the education of their children.
- Promote parent participation in the classroom.
- Create a welcoming environment for all members of the school community.
- Thank parents for participating in their child’s school education.

**BUDGET:**

All financial requirements for the implementation of this policy will be administered from the school’s annual budget.

**EVALUATION:**

This policy will be evaluated as per the school’s Policy Review Plan or prior to this, in response to student or community needs.