

What is school council and what does it involve?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of the school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on School Council?

There are three categories of membership:

- **From 2018 there is a mandated student member category, with full voting rights.**
- A mandated elected **Parent category**. Parent members must make up more than one-third of the council's total membership. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be parent members on council at their child's school as long as they are not employed at the school.
- A mandated elected **DET Employee category**. DET employee members may make up no more than one third of the council's total membership. The Principal of the school is automatically one of the DET employee members.
- An optional **Community Member category**. Members of this category are appointed from a decision of the school council based on their special skills, interests and experience. DET employees are ineligible for this category.

Why is student membership so important?

Students on council provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Students who become active on a school council and within the school community, find they have a greater sense of belonging, learn leadership and communication skills that can be transferred to other aspects of school and work life.

Do I need experience to be on school council?

No. Any student in year 7-12 is eligible to nominate for school council. The school will provide opportunities for elected students to attend training delivered by the Department of Education.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way to be involved is to vote in the upcoming election.

You might seriously consider nominating for election as a member of the school council, or suggesting/encouraging another student to stand for election.

Please note: Ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

What do I need to do to stand for election?

If you would like more information about school council please contact:

Sue Harrap, Principal, via harrap.susan.j@edumail.vic.gov.au ☎ 9488 2332

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the student category.

Nominations forms may be obtained from the school (Kate Challis at the General Office) and must be lodged by 4.00pm on Monday 07 May 2018.

Following the closing of nominations, a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school.

On completion of your nomination form, you will receive a Nomination Form Receipt.

If there are more nominations than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted on Friday 18 May 2018.

The terms of office and number of positions open for election are as follows:

Membership Category	Term of Office	Number of Positions
Student member	(1 Year) From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in <u>2018</u> to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in <u>2019</u>	One (1)
Student member	(2 Years) From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in <u>2018</u> to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in <u>2020</u>	One (1)

Election Timeline

Notice of election and call for nominations:	Monday 30 April 2018
Closing Date for nominations:	Monday 07 May 2018
Date by which the list of candidates and nominations will be displayed:	Wednesday 09 May 2018
Date by which ballot papers will be distributed:	Friday 11 May 2018
Close of ballot:	Friday 18 May 2018
Vote count and ballot declared:	Monday 21 May 2018

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and a further call for nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.