What is a School Council?

Established under a legislative basis for an Independent Public School and it’s council.

Chapter 6 (Section 77 to 117) of the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006).
The School Council

For the avoidance of doubt, the school council is not part of the department, is not a body corporate and does not have a separate legal identity.
Purpose of Tonight

1. **Who** – Getting to know each other and what we bring to the council and what our aspirations are for the academy through the council
2. **How** – To develop an initial understanding of our role and how we can best work together as a team
3. **Key Roles** – Chairperson / secretary – what are the keys to these roles
4. **Who else?** – Who could be considered as an appointed member? What could they bring to the council and the academy’s future?
The school council must perform its functions in a way that achieves the best learning outcomes for the school's students.

What do you think this means for your place on council?
The School Council role

In regard to Broad strategic matters:

• **Monitoring** the school’s strategic direction
• Approving plans and policies of the school of a strategic nature and other documents affecting strategic matters, including the annual estimate of revenue and expenditure
• **Monitor** the implementation of plans and policies mentioned above
• **Advising** the school’s Principal about strategic matters

What are the implications of this for you?
Functions of a School Council

The School Council must have regard to plans and policies of a strategic nature or annual estimate of revenue and expenditure:

• Academy Vision and Culture
• 2013-2017 Strategic Plan
• Explicit Improvement Agenda
• Annual Implementation Plan
• Annual Budget
• School Responsible Behaviour Plan
• Reports and Data which inform Strategic Direction
The School Council may not

- Interfere with the management by the school's principal of the day-to-day operations of the school and its curriculum; or
- Make operational decisions about the use of teaching or learning resources at the school; or
- Make decisions about the individual teaching style used, or to be used, at the school; or
- Make a decision that is contrary to law or a written policy of the department; or
- Have control of funds; or
- Enter into contracts; or
- Acquire, hold, dispose of or deal with property; or
- Sue or be sued.
School Council vs P&C Association

<table>
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<th>Entities</th>
<th>Governance</th>
<th>Advice</th>
<th>Operations</th>
<th>Fundraising</th>
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<td>Principal</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>School Council</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>P &amp; C</td>
<td>No</td>
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The Strategic Role

• *Tricker model*
School Council Members:

• Abide by a Code of Conduct
• Have a stated Role Description (see handout)

What is the role outside the meeting room?

Presence and profile
School Council Members
Desirable Attributes

- Expertise in areas that are important for the Academy
- Knowledge of the Strategic Direction and Vision of the Academy and external environment
- Ability to make and influence decisions
- Willing to commit to the task of governing
- Willingness to devote time to informed and effective decision making
Relationship between Council and Principal

“Paradox of Governance” – how to allow the Council and Principal to exercise effective control without diminishing the initiative and motivation of either.

Positive Relationships

• Respect, trust, confidence, support, open communication
• Understanding of specific roles focussing on strategic vision and mission of the school
Councils working well

- The council understands its role
- Council members have capability and a complimentary mix of desirable competencies (Role description)
- Regular review to ensure alignment
- Council has a documented and understood charter of protocols
- Robust council processes
- Chaired well
- Investment in induction and professional development.

The who and how are right.
Key positions

- The Chairperson – handout
- The secretary
Council development

- What should induction and PD look like? – handout
Who else?