



# Southern Cross Schools Parents Association

## Introduction

The Southern Cross Schools Parents Association (PA) is the structure through which the parents/guardians of children attending Southern Cross, can work together to support the teaching and learning processes at the school. The PA works with the school management, staff and Board of Governors to build effective communication and partnerships between home and school. The Chairperson of the PA is a member of the Board of Governors, representing the Parent Body.

## The Membership of the Parents Association

All parents, grandparents or guardians of children attending Southern Cross Schools will be deemed to be members of the Parents Association. Parents are actively encouraged to participate in the PA meetings and activities. The Schools' Head and Headmaster of the Prep school participate in PA meetings.

## The Committee of the Parents Association

The members of the Parents Association will elect a Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary annually. This group will have responsibility for managing the activities of the Parents Association. Each member will be elected for one year. They can be re-elected if they continue to be eligible to serve, that is if they continue to be a parent, grandparent or guardian of a child in the school. No member of the committee will hold the same officer position for more than three consecutive years.

### 2017 Officers:

Chair: Kevin Mitchell (083-9660713)  
Vice-Chair: Rosemary Heenan (072-5005461)  
Secretary: Richard James (083-2536361)

## Meetings

PA meetings are held monthly on the first Thursday of the month at 7.30am in the Leadwood Lapa at the boarding house.

## Role of the Parents Association

The role of the PA is to provide a constructive forum which;

- Enables parents to play a meaningful role in supporting the aims & objectives of the school.
- Promotes opportunities for parents to communicate, participate and establish a strong sense of community with one another and with the staff and administration of SCS.
- Serves as a communication conduit for parents to bring matters of importance (broad issues) to the attention of the school management and /or Board of Governors.

- Engages parents on strategic issues like safeguarding, transformation, parenting, the role of play in early learning, etc. and where indicated organises guest speakers to address parents on these topics.
- Welcomes all families into the school community, provides opportunities for social interaction and encourages parental involvement through events in support of SCS learners, staff and administration.
- Provides opportunities for parents to connect with one another, broaden their understanding of the school and make positive contributions through their voluntary efforts and identifies and encourages parents to make available their skills and talents that may be valuable to the school.

The PA is not a forum for raising individual issues. These should be addressed **to the child's** teacher/mentor in the first instance and subsequently brought to management if a solution is not reached. The PA will refer individual parents to follow the agreed procedures in the event of an issue relating to their own child.

The PA will not involve itself in the day to day management of the school nor in the professional work of a teacher within the classroom.

## Communications

Minutes of the monthly meetings are shared on the school website.

The PA has a dedicated email address which is: [scsparentbody@gmail.com](mailto:scsparentbody@gmail.com) and can be used to suggest issues for discussion at the PA meetings.

## Annual workplan

The PA will develop an annual plan of activities which will include family social events, work parties, support for new families, parent consultations, information sessions and issues for referral to the quarterly Board of Governors meetings.

## Fundraising for the School

A dedicated sub-committee of the PA raises funds annually for school improvements. The use of the funds is decided jointly by the school management and the PA. All parents are welcome to be part of the fundraising sub-committee and encouraged to participate in the organising and support of fundraising events.

**The SCS Parents Association will strive to represent all parents in supporting and improving our amazing school for the benefit of our children.**

**We encourage all parents to engage with us!**