

Constitution of St Josephs (Papanui) Parent Teacher Association

-Amended by unanimous consensus 9 March 2009 at a general meeting.

1. Name:

The name of the association shall be:-

St Josephs (Papanui) Parent Teacher Association.

2. Objects:

The objects of the Association shall be, according to the special character of the school, to further the interests of St Josephs School and to promote co-operation between Teachers, Parents and the Community in the cause of Education.

3. Membership:

The Association shall consist of Teachers, Parents, Caregivers of students and any active supporter of St Josephs School.

4. Election of Members:

All in rule 3 shall be deemed members without election. There is no annual subscription.

5. Life Members:

Life members may be conferred on any member in recognition of outstanding service, and so recorded.

6. Officers:

a) The affairs of the Association shall be entrusted to a Committee comprising Principal, Staff representative, Board of Trustees representative and members. There is to be no limit to the amount of members on the committee.

b) Nominations may be made orally from among members present or from absentees if accompanied by a written acceptance of nomination by the nominee.

c) The Committee shall elect the following officers:

Chairperson
Vice Chairperson
Honorary Secretary
Honorary Treasurer

d) The Chairperson shall have the power to appoint sub-committees and co-opt other members as the need arises.

7. Vacancies:

Casual vacancies occurring in the Committee between Annual General Meetings may be filled by the Committee.

8. General Meetings:

- a) The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held before the end of March.
- b) A Special General Meeting may be called at any time by the Chairperson or in their absence, the Vice Chairperson, and seven days notice must be given to members with the agenda, time and place of the meeting.
- c) The Chairperson at any meeting shall have a casting vote, as well as a deliberate vote.
- d) At all General Meetings, nine will constitute a quorum.

9. Committee Meetings:

- a) Meetings of the Committee shall generally be held monthly. The Committee shall determine its own procedure at such meetings and nine shall constitute a quorum.
- b) Any Committee member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings without leave shall be deemed to have ceased as a committee Member unless satisfactory explanation is received on request.

10. Finance:

- a) Any funds acquired by the Association after payment of all expenses shall be used for the betterment of both students and teachers as determined by the committee.
- b) The Honorary Treasurer shall present to each Committee Meeting a statement of receipts and payments, and to the Annual General Meeting, an audited statement of receipts and payments for the preceding year ending December.
- c) All monies received by the Association shall be deposited in an account approved by the Committee, within seven days of receipt and all payments be made by cheque after accounts are passed for payment by the Committee.
- d) If any property remains after the winding up or dissolution of the PTA and the settlement of all its debts and liabilities, that property must be used to further the purposes of the PTA and in accordance with its rules.

11. Alterations to the Rules:

- a) Any of the rules may be amended at a Special general Meeting as defined in regulation 8b called for that purpose or at the Annual General Meeting by two thirds majority of those present, provided that notice of such amendment has been given to the Committee, fourteen days before such a meeting.

Objectives of the PTA

The following are some ideas on PTA objectives, taken from PTA literature. These might form the basis for discussions on the objectives of our PTA, which in turn might allow us to develop a more positive programme for the year's activities.

The main aim of the PTA is to bring into closer relationship the parent, the teacher, the home and the school, so that parents may co-operate and understand all aspects of education as it relates to the child. It also provides a link between the school and the community through the holding of General Meetings at which all may gain an understanding of present teaching methods.

The objectives include:

1. Parents and teachers working together in the interests of children and young people.
2. Greater co-operation between home, school and the community.
3. Provision of the means for the parents, residents and the community to be kept informed of the aims and activities of the school and education generally.
4. To co-operate with the teachers and Board of Trustees so the best provision can be made for the maintaining the physical and mental health of the child.
5. To foster the growth of parent/teacher relationships within the school and so ensure the better understanding of the mutual problems of parent and teachers in the education of children.
6. To affiliate with local Federation, whereby views and ideas on education can be discussed with other Associations and so ensure that the combined view points and ideas of parents and teachers can be collated and forwarded to the NZPTA Inc. for the action at Government level, if necessary.
7. To organise meeting on Curriculum Topics, local issues of concern, social issues, changes in school programmes, meeting the teacher evenings etc, and social events.
8. Any income, benefit, or advantage must be used to advance the charitable purposes of the PTA.
9. No Committee Member, or anyone associated with a member, is allowed to take part in, or influence any decision made by the PTA in respect of payments to, or on behalf of, the member or associated person of any income, benefit, or advantage.
10. Any payments made to a Committee Member, or person associated with a member, must be for goods or services that advance the charitable purpose and must be reasonable and relative to payments that would be made between unrelated parties.

The main aim should not be seen as fundraising for the school, although this is one area of involvement, but bringing a better understanding of the word “education” to all parents. The PTA Committee should be made up of interested parents and teachers who wish to bring a closer insight into how and what a child is taught and the main purpose of this teaching. Many problems that beset parents and teachers can be discussed on common ground.