

# CONSTITUTION FOR ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL NORTHAM PARENTS AND FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION

## 1. NAME

The name of the Association shall be ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL NORTHAM Parents and Friends' Association.

## 2. DEFINITIONS

- a) The Association is the St Joseph's School Northam Parents and Friends' Association.
- b) The Committee is the body of representative members elected by the Association at the Annual General Meeting and will include the Parish Priest and the Principal.
- c) The Executive consists of the Office Bearers of the Association elected as per Clause 10.
- d) The Governing Bodies of the School are the Principal and the School Board.

## 3. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Parents and Friends' Association are to fulfil the aims of the Parents and Friends' Association of St Joseph's School Northam in a spirit of Christian cooperation and to promote in the school an active relationship with Christ and his Church.

## 4. AIMS

The Parents and Friends' Association is an integral part of the Catholic School Structure and is a valuable instrument in this important Church Apostolate.

The Association should:

- a) adhere to the aims and objectives of the State Federation as laid down by the Constitution and approved by the Catholic Bishops of Western Australia;
- b) strive to develop at the school a real community of parents, teachers and students which reflect a truly Christian ethos;
- c) work closely with the school authorities, in particular the school Principal, who is the leader of the school community, to achieve common goals;
- d) act as liaison between the wider school community and the Governing Bodies of the School;
- e) in consultation with the Principal, ensure that a high level of social and educational interaction exists between home and school, parents and teachers;
- f) in consultation with the Principal endeavour to assist all parents enjoy the exciting experience of their children's formal school years by active participation and personal involvement in the school programmes;
- g) provide a healthy forum for ideas and discussion on any relevant general issue that will benefit the education of their children;
- h) in particular, concern itself with further education for the parents of the school in their faith development and ensure that a clear understanding of the school's religious education program exists;
- i) organise guest speakers for the Parents and Friends on current and suggested educational programmes, faith development and other matters of interest;
- j) work to provide additional resources which are considered necessary for the children or to assist the teachers in their professional work;
- k) assist in planning and organising functions associated with the social, sporting, cultural and educational life of the school community.

The Parents and Friends' Association Executive should:

- a) be responsible for the management and organisation of the Association's affairs;
- b) hold regular monthly general meetings to which should be invited all parents, the Principal and teachers, parish clergy and religious associated with the school and other interested persons;

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- c) conduct meetings in a fitting and proper manner with respect for accepted meeting procedures;
- d) use known and successful organisational tools, such as sub-committees, task forces and discussion groups to encourage wider participation, develop increased responsibility and to achieve more effective results;
- e) appoint a person, or form a sub-committee, to be responsible for activities and dissemination of information pertaining to the Association's areas of responsibility to the school community, eg. education matters, adult education, religious education, State Federation, Australian Parents Council, social, cultural and sporting activities, the parent-teacher partnership, etc.

" The primary right of parents to educate their children must be upheld in all forms of collaboration between parents, teachers and school authorities, and particularly in forms of participation designed to give citizens a voice in the functioning of schools and implementation of educational policies."

(Quote: Article 5, " Charter of the Rights of the Family", issued by The Holy See, Rome, October 1983.)

## 5. MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION

- a) The Parish Priest, the Principal and all full-time members of the teaching staff of the school shall be ex-officio members of the Association.
- b) Relief and part-time teaching staff will be considered ordinary members and therefore eligible for election to Association Executive.
- c) Any parent/guardian of a child attending the school, or any person who supports the objectives of the Association, shall be admitted as a member.
- d) A voluntary levy or subscription may be payable by each family, the amount being fixed each year at the A.G.M.

## 6. MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION

- a) An Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held on or as close as practicable to the **third Monday in November**:
  - i) to receive and consider the Annual Report of the committee;
  - ii) to elect the Committee for the ensuing year;
  - iii) to deal with any other matter or matters brought before the meeting.
- b) Association General Meeting shall be held at least once a month where possible.
- c) Where possible, matters to be brought before an Association Meeting should be submitted in writing to the President or Secretary **at least 5 days prior to the Meeting.**
- d) i) Special Meetings of the Association may be convened by the President, Executive member or member of the Committee, and shall be convened by them within **14 days** of receiving a requisition in writing signed by at least ten members of the Association. These signatories shall be required to attend the meeting so called or submit a written apology. At least five of the signatories must attend the meeting. The requisition must itemise all matters to be discussed at the meeting.
  - ii) Special Meetings will be convened within 14 days at the request of any of the school Governing Bodies.
  - iii) At Special Meetings, items for discussion will be limited to the matters relating to the calling of such a meeting.
- e) Notification of Association or Special Meetings, including details of matters to be raised, will be given to all members prior to the meeting, where possible.
- f) At any Association Meeting a total of 12 members of which at least 2 (two) shall be office bearers shall constitute a quorum.
- g) At each meeting of the Association, the Committee shall make a report of its activities since the previous meeting of the Association.

## 7. VOTING

- i) Any member or ex-officio member of the Association shall be eligible to vote on any matter at any meeting of the Association.

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- b) The chairman of a meeting may use a casting vote, which must not be used to alter the status quo.

## 8. MANAGEMENT

The Association shall be governed by an Committee comprising a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, P&F Board Representative and five other members. The Parish Priest and Principal of the St Joseph's School Northam, or in their absence, their appointed representative, will be ex-officio members of the Committee.

- a) Board representative may hold executive position concurrently.

## 9. ELECTIONS

a) The Executive and Committee members of the Association shall be elected by the Annual General Meeting. For the purpose of this election only, either the Principal or Parish Priest, or their nominated representative, will occupy the Chair.

b) Any member or ex-officio member of the Association, who is present at the Annual General Meeting, or has consented in writing to be elected, shall be eligible for election to the Committee.

c) No ex-officio member, or their representative, can be elected to an Executive position.

## 10. VACATION OF OFFICE

a) The term of office of Executive and Committee Members will be 1 year, at the conclusion of which period they shall vacate their positions, but shall be eligible for re-election.

b) A person shall not hold the office of President for more than 3 consecutive years.

c) Committee Members who wish to resign during their elected term may do so providing they give 1 month's written notice to the Committee.

d) A member of the Committee shall be deemed to have resigned therefrom if:

i) without submitting an acceptable apology, he or she is absent from 3 consecutive meetings (whether of the Association or the Committee or of a combination of both);

ii) in accordance with a decision of an absolute majority of the Committee, he or she is required to resign from the Committee and fails to do so within 14 days of the date upon which notification of the decision of the Committee is forwarded to him/her stating the reasons for this action.

## 11. CASUAL VACANCIES

Any vacancies in the Committee, whether by reason of the operation of Clause 10 or otherwise, may be filled by the appointment thereto by the Committee of any member of the Association, until the next Annual General Meeting.

## 12. MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

a) Committee Meetings will be open to all members of the Association, unless called as closed by a majority of the Committee.

b) The Committee shall meet at least once a month during the school year or otherwise as determined by the Committee, and a total of 6 members of which 2 must be office bearers shall constitute a quorum.

c) Members co-opted by the Committee, as per Clause 11, will have full voting rights at Committee Meetings. Observers attending Committee Meetings will not be entitled to a vote, although their participation in the Meeting will be encouraged.

## 13. POWERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee shall have power generally to give effect to the aims of the Association and to the Rules of the Constitution, and the Committee may, subject to any decisions of the Association:

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- a) formulate the Standing Orders of the Association to be applicable to such meetings as the Committee may determine;
- b) establish such sub-committees as it may determine to give effect to the aims of the Association;
- c) provide for the election or appointment of members to any such sub-committee and for the conduct and operation thereof;
- d) to elect and define the duties and powers of its officers;
- e) to recommend the voluntary P&F levy or subscription to be agreed on at the Annual General Meeting;
- f) to raise funds by other voluntary means for the further educational benefits of the St Joseph's School children in accordance with the aims of the Association.

#### 14. POWER OF VETO

The School Principal shall have the power to veto any decision made at any meeting dealing with matters of internal operation of the School.

#### 15. FINANCE

As soon as practicable, the Committee shall cause a society account to be opened in the name of the Association in such Institution as may be determined. Cheques drawn upon the account shall be signed by two signatories on the account as the Committee may determine.

#### 16. ASSETS

All assets of whatever nature not previously donated to the school (excepting the Association's bank accounts) may be vested in a trustee of the Association. The Principal shall be the sole trustee of the Association.

#### 17. AFFILIATION

The Association will affiliate with the Parents and Friends' Federation of Western Australia (Inc.).

#### 18. AMENDMENT

Subject to Clause 3 hereof, this Constitution may be amended or altered at any General Meeting of the Association, provided that:

- a) notice of any proposed amendment or proposed alteration shall have been given in writing to members through the Executive at least one month prior to such a meeting and,
- b) the amendment or alteration is approved by at least 75% of the members present.

#### 19. NON-PROFITMAKING

The income and property of the Association howsoever derived shall be applied solely towards the promotion of its objectives as set out in this Constitution and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend bonus or otherwise howsoever to its members, provided that nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith of remuneration to any officer or servant of the Association for costs incurred in the service of the Association.

#### 20. AUDITOR

- a) The financial year of the Association shall be from the 1st January to 31st December in the following year.
- b) The members at each Annual General Meeting of the Association shall appoint an Auditor for the next 12 months. The Auditor shall audit the accounts of the Association at the close of the financial year. The Auditor shall not be a member or ex-officio member of the Committee.

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## 21. SECRETARY

The Secretary shall:

- a) coordinate the correspondence of the Association;
- b) keep full and correct minutes of the proceedings of the Committee and Association;
- c) have custody of all books, documents, records and registers of the Association, other than those required by clause 22 to be kept and maintained by, or in the custody of, the Treasurer and
- d) perform such other duties as are imposed by this Constitution.

## 22. TREASURER

The Treasurer shall;

- a) be responsible for the receipt of all moneys paid to or received by, or by the Treasurer on behalf of, the Association and shall issue receipts for those moneys in the name of the Association;
- b) pay all moneys referred to in paragraph (a) into such account or accounts of the Association as the Committee may from time to time direct;
- c) make payments from the funds of the Association with the authority of a general meeting or of the Committee and in so doing ensure that all cheques are signed in accordance with clause 15;
- d) comply on behalf of the Association with sections 24. and 25. in respect of the accounting records of the Association;
- e) whenever directed to do so by the President submit to the Committee a report, balance sheet or financial statement in accordance with that direction;
- f) have custody of all securities, books and documents of a financial nature and accounting records of the Association including those referred to in paragraphs (d) and (e); and
- g) perform such other duties as are imposed by this Constitution.

## 23. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF ASSOCIATION

- a) The Secretary shall cause proper minutes of all proceedings of all General Meetings and Committee Meetings to be taken and then to be entered within 30 days after the holding of each General Meeting or Committee Meeting, as the case requires, in a minute book kept for that purpose.
- b) The Chairperson shall ensure that the minutes taken of a General Meeting or Committee Meeting are checked and signed as correct by the Chairperson of the General Meeting or Committee Meeting, as the case requires.
- c) When minutes have been entered and signed as correct under this rule, they shall, until the contrary is proved, be evidence that:
  - i) the General Meeting or Committee Meeting to which they relate (called "the meeting") was duly convened and held;
  - ii) all proceedings recorded as having taken place at the meeting did in fact take place thereat; and
  - iii) all appointments or elections purporting to have been made at the meeting have been validly made.

## 24. CLAUSES OF ASSOCIATION BINDING

These clauses bind every member and the Association to the same extent as if every member and the Association had signed and sealed these rules and agreed to be bound by all their provisions.

## 25. INSPECTION OF RECORDS, ETC. OF ASSOCIATION

A member may at any reasonable time inspect without charge the books, documents, records and securities of the association, but may not remove them from the custody of the person to whom they are entrusted.

## 26. THIS CONSTITUTION SUPERSEDES ALL PREVIOUS CONSTITUTIONS.

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The foregoing Constitution was Adopted by a General Meeting of the Association held on the 16th day of November 1992.

And hereby approved

Lloyd Westbrook

PRESIDENT

Karen Pator

SECRETARY

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PRINCIPAL

Dated

8/2/93

Signed copy to be held by the Secretary as required by section 21 (c)

