

*FEDERATION OF PARENTS COUNCILS  
IN CHRISTIAN BROTHERS AND  
OTHER CATHOLIC SECONDARY  
SCHOOLS*



***WHY A  
PARENTS  
COUNCIL?***

## ***WHY A PARENT COUNCIL?***

Parents are the primary educator of their children and have a vital role to play in Education.

“The State acknowledges that the primary educator of the child is the family” – **Constitution of Ireland Article 42**

“As a parent himself, Edmund Rice recognised that parents/guardians (as family and community leaders) have a crucial role to play in the life of the school” – **ERST Charter**

Schools exist in order to assist parents in the education of their children. For the good of the child there must be the closest possible co-operation between home and school.

Christian parents would see the function of the school as not only imparting knowledge and teaching facts but as assisting parents in the transmission of values.

### ***ROLE OF THE PARENT COUNCIL:***

- 1) To promote and foster co-operation between home and school.
- 2) To act in an advisory and consultative capacity in relation to the school.
- 3) The Parent Council must be founded and run on mutual respect i.e. the school will respect the rights and responsibilities of parents as the primary educators of their children and parents will respect the professional competence of the management and teaching staff of the school.
- 4) However the Parents Council should think and act on its own initiative in consultation with the school.

## ***PRACTICAL ADVANTAGES OF A PARENTS COUNCIL:***

- 1) The child whose parents are involved in his/her formal education becomes more aware of the purpose of education and gains new respect for it.
- 2) Misunderstandings can be avoided if parents are aware of school structures.
- 3) The Parents Council in a school has a statutory recognition under the Education Act 1998 and will be consulted with regard to certain policies.
- 4) The Parents Council is the essential basic unit in the formation of the National Parents Council Post Primary where parents are consulted nationally as a partner in education.

## **LIMITATIONS OF A PARENT COUNCIL:**

- 1) It should not be used as a complaints forum for problems relating to individual children.
- 2) It should not interfere in the day to day running of the school where such responsibility rests with the school Principal.
- 3) It should not be regarded as primarily a fund raising committee. While fund raising is unfortunately still a reality in many voluntary schools due to inadequate funding, such fundraising activities should be undertaken by a sub-committee and should not distract the Parents Council from its primary roles.

## STRUCTURE OF A PARENTS COUNCIL:

- 1) Elected once a year at A.G.M. by parents of children attending the school.
- 2) Officers to be elected at first meeting of Council after A.G.M.
- 3) Council is run by its officers i.e. calls its own meetings, sets its own agenda.
- 4) School principle to be ex-officio member of the council.
- 5) Teacher and Student Council representative invited to attend meetings in a spirit of co-operation.
- 6) Council meets monthly during the school year.
- 7) Council finances itself by subscription from parents or fund-raising.
- 8) Desirable that it has its own constitution.

For further information about the Federation:

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or

look up our website: [www.fedcbs.ie](http://www.fedcbs.ie)

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