



A strong voice for the needs and interests of Queensland parents who choose an independent education for their children.

Parent engagement is schools and families working together in partnership.

When it happens well, the winners are our children.



Discover

Who we are.

The Queensland Independent Schools Parents Network is the recognised representative body – and a strong voice – for the needs and interests of parents who choose an independent education for their children.

We are regularly consulted by governments and other peak education groups on policy matters that affect families.

We are also passionate advocates for positive and respectful learning partnerships between schools, parents and children (also known as ‘parent engagement’).

Our website is a rich well of research, quality resources and funding opportunities to help teachers and schools power up their parent engagement.



Meaningful parent engagement.

What is parent engagement?

It is now accepted that a parent's attitudes to education and the expectations they hold for their children, can have a profound impact on how well their children do at school.

Study after study over decades has shown that parents who are supportively engaged in their child's education can have a positive influence on both their academic outcomes and their wellbeing.

Research shows that when schools and families work together in this way, the effect on children can be overwhelmingly positive.

Students generally:

- do better
- stay in school longer
- are more engaged in their homework
- behave better
- have better social skills.

But 'parent engagement' in schools is different to what many people assume it means.

Parents volunteering in the tuckshop and classroom are wonderful ways to support a school, but parent engagement is about something much richer and deeper.

It's about parents taking an active interest in their child's learning and getting involved in that learning process at home. It is also schools and families respecting each other's unique roles.

Parent engagement flourishes when schools and families have strong and productive relationships and communicate well.

How we help schools drive their parent engagement

Guiding schools and keeping families informed

- ① Our website contains up-to-date information and resources for educators and parents who want to harness the power of parent engagement.

We also regularly update our community of parents, schools and supporters on education, student wellbeing and parent engagement news through our Facebook page and monthly newsletter.

- ② We fund school-based research projects into parent engagement and host professional development workshops for teachers in this important area of research.

- ③ In partnership with Independent Schools Queensland we also provide strategic support to independent schools in this important area.

Our purposeful advocacy work

The Queensland Independent Schools Parents Network contributes to taskforces, committees and reviews into key areas of education and student wellbeing policy.

Our Executive Officer, Amanda Watt:

- engages directly with statewide education authorities on issues of importance to independent school parents.
- is a member of the Joint Parent Council which represents parents in all schooling sectors in Queensland.
- makes submissions to education and wellbeing enquiries.
- regularly consults with parents to ensure our views are representative of the diverse independent sector.

Student learning and wellbeing lift when schools and parents pool their collective wisdom, respect each other's strengths and perspectives, and work in partnership.



Purposeful advocacy.

The Queensland Independent Schools Parents Network is governed by a Board of Directors and is supported by Independent Schools Queensland, the state's peak organisation for independent schools. Our Executive Officer is also supported by a Consultative Committee comprised of parents from small and large independent schools across Queensland.

www.parentsnetwork.qld.edu.au



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