

## Notice of election and call for nominations

<b>An election is to be conducted for members of the school council of Peninsula Specialist College</b>
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<b>Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4.00pm on Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021</b>
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<b>The ballot will close at 4.00pm on Monday the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021</b>
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The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

<b>Membership category</b>	
Parent member	
<b>Term of office</b>	<b>Year</b>
From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in	2021
to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in	2023
<b>Number of positions:</b>	<b>5</b>

## School council elections – information for parents

### What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the broad direction of a school, in accordance with Ministerial Order (Constitution of Government School Councils) 2020 (Ministerial Order 1280), and the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

### Who is on the school council?

For most school councils, there are several possible categories of membership:

A mandated elected parent member category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department employees can be parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.

A mandated elected school employee member category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

An optional community member category – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. Department employees are not eligible to be community members.

A small number of school councils have nominee members.

For all schools with a Year 7 and above cohort, there is an additional category of membership:

A mandated elected student member category, two positions.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

### Why is parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills and a range of experiences and knowledge that can help inform and shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

### Do I need special experience to be on school council?

Each member brings their own valuable life skills and knowledge to the role. However, councillors may need to develop skills and acquire knowledge in areas that are unfamiliar to them. It is important to have an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

### Code of conduct for school councillors

School councils in Victoria are public entities as defined by the *Public Administration Act 2004*. School councillors must abide by the Code of Conduct for Directors of Victorian Public Entities issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. The Code of Conduct is based on the Victorian public sector values and requires councillors to act with honesty and integrity (be truthful, open and clear about their motives and declare any real, potential or perceived conflict of interest and duty)

act in good faith in the best interests of the school (work cooperatively with other councillors and the school community, be reasonable, and make all decisions with the best interests of students foremost in their minds)

act fairly and impartially (consider all relevant facts of an issue before making a decision, seek to have a balanced view, never give special treatment to a person or group and never act from self-interest)

use information appropriately (respect confidentiality and use information for the purpose for which it was made available)

exercise due care, diligence and skill (accept responsibility for decisions and do what is best for the school)

use the position appropriately (not use the position as a councillor to gain an advantage)

act in a financially responsible manner (observe all the above principles when making financial decisions)

comply with relevant legislation and policies (know what legislation and policies are relevant for which decisions and obey the law)

demonstrate leadership and stewardship (set a good example, encourage a culture of accountability, manage risks effectively, exercise care and responsibility to keep the school strong and sustainable).