

# Parent Involvement

Parents have the unique chance to encourage emotional and social as well as intellectual growth. A child who sees parents volunteer time and energy on his/her behalf, often works that much harder, all the while gaining in a sense of self-worth.

Through volunteering time and services, children see the care and concern for all of them which helps to foster the caring community environment for which Somersfield is known. Over the years hundreds of volunteers have contributed countless hours of service to help students, provide an “extra pair of hands” for busy teachers, and contribute to the general welfare of the school community.

## Parent Rights as a Volunteer at Somersfield Academy:

- To have volunteering experience that is personally fulfilling and fun.
- To be respected and recognised as a member of the school community, not just the volunteer group.
- To receive open and frequent communication about specific volunteer tasks and general school information.

## Why Volunteer?

- ☆ To learn about your school community
- ☆ To be a good role model for others
- ☆ To share personal experiences and unique talents
- ☆ To experience satisfaction of helping someone
- ☆ To have an opportunity for personal growth
- ☆ To develop new skills
- ☆ To meet new people and make new friends
- ☆ To use time in a meaningful way

## Class Parents

Class parents are the coordinators of support in their children’s classes. They help assist with the organisation of activities, school-wide events and provide classroom level support for teachers and facilitate a sense of community among the children’s families. Class parents are an avenue for strengthening communication between the school and the families.

Teachers generally request the support of three parents (one from each age group) in the Children’s House, and two parents in the Primary Division to help as Class parents. Class parents have a very important role and the school welcomes each volunteer’s creativity and ideas while being sensitive to the teachers’ decisions, space and time.

Class parents meet once per term with the Parent Relations Coordinator to make suggestions, discuss school-wide activities and share ideas.

The Class parent role is unique to each classroom, teacher and class parent, but general responsibilities for this important role are as follows:

### **General Responsibilities:**

- Meet with teacher once per term or as necessary. It is important to remember that the teachers vary in what they will want class parents to do
- Send an introductory email introducing yourself and your role as class parent including a request for information on any family customs and traditions that they would like to share with the class
- Organise special lunches (i.e. pot luck lunches after events, such as concerts etc.)
- \*Organise parent donations for holiday and end of year gifts for classroom and specialist teachers
- Organise a class basket for the Spring Fair
- Organise outings/school trips and drivers for these trips
- Welcome any parent new to the class with a phone call during the school year
- Organise in-house craft days (approved by teacher)
- Assist with costumes for plays etc.

\*It is important to note that participation in the appreciation gifts is voluntary; there is no set monetary amount, and these gifts are given on behalf of the whole class (regardless of participation).

### **Other Volunteer Opportunities**

Somersfield parents have a strong track record of being involved in student life, and the school sincerely appreciates those parents who contribute time to volunteer, as that extra support greatly enhances our school programmes.

A few examples of our activities and events where parent support is welcomed and valued are the Readathon, Spring Fair, Community Service projects, Office support, Friday Pizza Lunch, social events, photography for the school yearbook and other school publications, Parent Ambassadors for new parents, Library support, and listening to readers from Children's House and Lower Primary.