

Pre-Forum conversations

Opening the conversation around School Advisory Councils.



MELBOURNE
ARCHDIOCESE
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Transitioning and establishing School Advisory Councils in MACS-governed schools

‘Parish priests and principals hold distinctive roles of leadership in their parish and school communities, and therefore it is essential that they work collaboratively to ensure that the relationship between parish and school is central to providing the religious leadership necessary for the success of the mission’ - *Working Together in Mission* p.3

MACS has determined that by the end of 2021 every MACS-governed school in the Archdiocese will have a functioning School Advisory Council (SAC). Some schools will be required to transition the current advisory board or council by replacing the superseded constitution with the MACS [Terms of Reference for School Advisory Councils](#). Others will require the establishment of a school advisory council to either renew a lapsed council or to initiate a council for the first time.

As suggested in the above quote from [Working Together in Mission](#), it will be essential for principals and priests to open a conversation with each other about the following, appropriate to their circumstances:

- How will we conduct the transition of the current board/council to the MACS *Terms of Reference*? For example: How do we retire the current board/council constitution and adopt the MACS Terms of Reference?
- Having read the MACS *Terms of Reference* does our current board/council require changes to the membership or purpose?
- In establishing a new SAC what will the expression of interest process look like or will potential members be nominated?
- How will members be chosen and appointed?
- What will be the make-up of the SAC? How many members and who and what roles will they play?
- How will the MACS *Terms of Reference* be customised for your school?
- Where there are multiple schools in one parish will there be an overarching SAC or will each school have their own?
- How will the SAC make the connection between school and parish or association of parishes?

It is suggested these decisions will be informed by reference to the following foundation documents found on the School Advisory Councils website <https://governance.melbourne/resources-sac/>

- [MACS Statement of Mission](#)
- [Working Together in Mission](#)
- [MACS Terms of Reference for School Advisory Councils](#).

You are encouraged to engage in these conversations prior to your attendance at the forum.