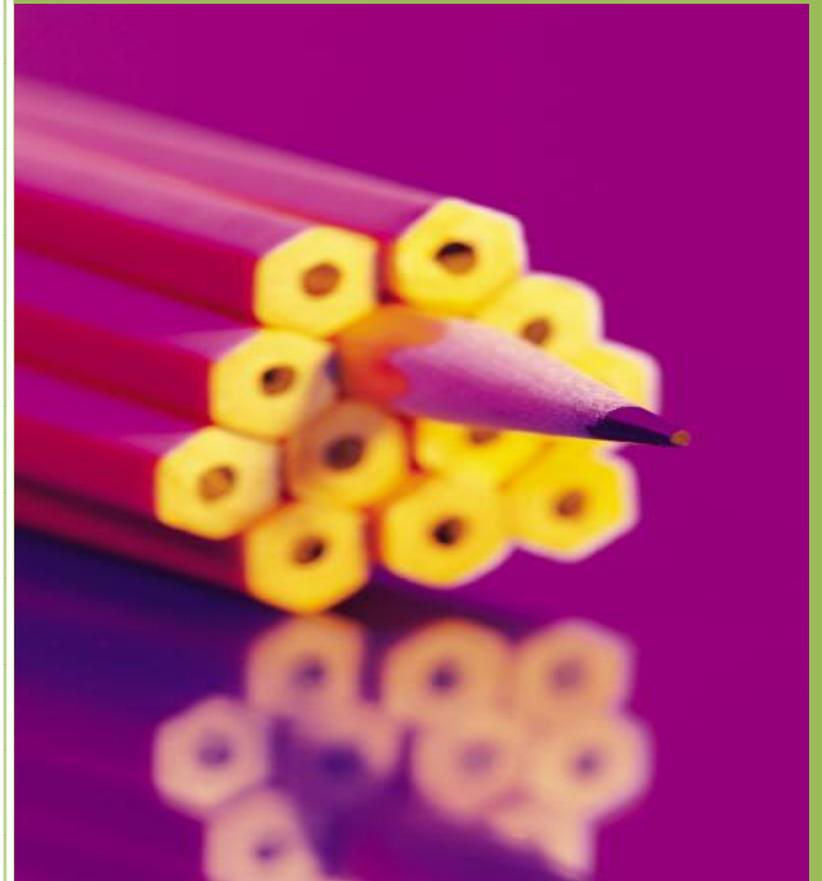


2014

McDowall State School Parent and Community Engagement



INTRODUCTION

Parents and the broader community play a vital role in supporting successful learning outcomes for our children. This framework is about how our school engages with parents and community to work together to maximise student learning outcomes. The research tells us that the most meaningful partnerships are those where schools, parents, students and the community work together to focus on student learning. Parent and community engagement is most effective when it: (a) Focuses on student learning, (b) Encourages genuine dialogues and shared responsibility for student success, (c) Builds the capability, and the confidence, of staff, parents and community members to engage with each other; and (d) Enables widespread engagement and sustains it over time.

This Parent and Community Engagement Framework identifies what McDowall State School does to strengthen learning outcomes for students – through effective partnerships between the principal, teachers, students, parents and the community. The education of our students is a shared responsibility, benefiting all students, our society and economy as a whole. Therefore, parents and broader communities have a reciprocal responsibility to engage with schools. The quality of these relationships will determine the quality of learning.

This framework outlines five key elements of parent and community engagement to make a positive difference in our students' education.

1. Communication.
2. Learning Partnerships.
3. Community Collaboration.
4. Decision-making.
5. Participation.

The core learning priorities of Queensland State Schools are articulated in the department's agenda for improvement, "*United In Our Pursuit Of Excellence*".

OUR VISION

McDowall State School delivers excellence in quality preparatory and primary education services. Our purpose is to implement the Australian preparatory and primary curriculum and deliver effective professional teaching services within a supportive school learning environment facilitating achievement of educational excellence. Our vision is for all students to experience success and to assume increasing levels of self-responsibility in the achievement of pre-determined learning outcomes within a supportive learning context strengthened by partnerships.

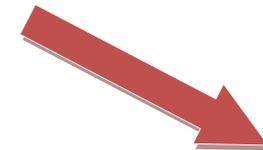
We believe that we can only achieve the best outcomes for all students through an on-going commitment towards:

- **FOCUS ON THE CHILD ...** Our collective decision-making, goodwill and endeavour is to benefit enrolled children.
- **QUALITY CURRICULUM ...** Teachers being able to interpret, construct, implement and review the best curriculum possible.
- **EFFECTIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING ...** Supporting highly skilled teaching practitioners to achieve the best outcomes for all students.
- **PARTNERSHIPS – STAFF, STUDENTS, PARENTS AND COMMUNITY ...** Parents and community actively supporting and complementing school operations, investing additional funding, resources, time, facilities and opportunities to make 'Our Great State School' even better.
- **BEST OUTCOMES FOR ALL STUDENTS ...** We aspire to achieve the best learning outcomes for all enrolled students.

Student Development, Learning and Wellbeing



Parent and Community Engagement Framework



Communication

Effective communication is an exchange between parents and carers, communities and schools that involves information sharing and opportunities to learn about each other.

Learning Partnerships

Partnerships between parents and carers, communities and schools that promote student learning and high expectations for student success

Community Collaboration

Relationships with the school and wider community to strengthen the ability of schools and families to support student learning and development outcomes.

Decision –Making

Parents, carers and community members play meaningful roles in school decision-making.

Participation

Parent, carer and community participation in student learning and the school community is acknowledged and valued.

COMMUNICATION

Effective communication between schools, parents, the community and students forms the foundation in developing and maintaining partnerships. Schools also have a responsibility to help parents understand the language of learning. McDowall State School does this by:-



Using a range of communication tools.

- Fortnightly Tartan Times - school newsletter.
- Weekly assemblies.
- Recess debriefing sessions.
- School website.
- Parent interviews – two formal parent/teacher interviews per year + as requested by teacher or parent.
- Parent information evenings.
- Reporting student achievement through two formal written reports + NAPLAN reports for Years 3,5 & 7.
- School calendar of events.
- Specific purpose notices.
- Teacher / parent email communication.
- Teacher / parent telephone communication.
- Induction school tours – new parents and children.
- Parent morning and afternoon teas (a) Reading Flying Gang (b) P&C Association Information (c) Defence DSTA Programme.



Providing information sessions to parents and community.

- New enrolment, parents' information evening - October.
- Commencement of school, year level and class information evenings - February.
- One-to-one lap top information sessions - November.
- Instrumental music programme information evenings - November.
- Child safety evenings – cyber safety and family planning.
- TAPS programme – TARTAN TAPS (Teacher and Parent Seminars) is a McDowall State School initiative that provides parents of new Prep and Year One enrolments with information about effective ways to prepare young children for beginning school. The whole day seminars (and Part 1 and Part 2 twilight seminars) are presented by early primary teachers, and reflect the values and expectations of McDowall State School.
- TADPOLES programme – TARTAN TADPOLES (Pre-Prep Child Induction Experience) is a McDowall State School initiative that provides pre-Prep children and their parent an opportunity to play and meet other pre-Prep children and their parents before beginning the Preparatory Year.
- Celebration of Childhood Open Morning – information sessions by school and community organisations - October.

**Committees and Associations.**

- School Council – Established with the object of improving student learning outcomes. It monitors the school's strategic direction, approves plans and policies of the school of a strategic nature, monitors the implementation of these plans and policies; and advises the principal about strategic matters.
- P&C Association - The objectives of the Association are to promote the interests of, and facilitate the development and further improvement of the school, by promoting parent participation, encouraging collaboration between parents, students, school communities and non-government entities to foster a commitment to achieving the best educational outcomes for children. (a) Foster community interest in educational matters, (b) Try to bring about closer co-operation between the parents of children attending the school and other members of the community, staff members of the school and students of the school. (c) If asked by the principal give advice and recommendation. (d) Give, or assist in the giving of, financial or other resources or services for the benefit of persons who receive educational instruction at the school.
- P&C Association Sub-Committees & Contacts: (a) Active School Travel (b) Fundraising (c) Out-of-School Hours Care (d) Shops – Tuckshop & Uniform Shop (e) Traffic & SafeST (f) Communications (g) Grants Co-ordinator (h) Grounds Rep (i) School Health & Safety Rep (j) P&C Qld Rep (k) School Banking (l) Book Club.
- Tartan Network (P&C Association sub-committee made up of parent representatives from each class). The Tartan Network was formed to enable parents not able to regularly attend P&C Association Meetings to engage in support of P&C Association business and initiatives. Through a Class Parent Contact List, this parent volunteer works in close support of the class teacher to deliver supportive, productive and improved partnerships between class teacher and parents, resulting in educational benefits to students. Effective Tartan Network representatives assist both the P&C Association and class teacher in keeping parents informed of school events, policies and procedures. They also encourage and assist parents in ways that they can better support their child's class teacher or be involved within the school generally. This focus often results in out-of-school informal social activities being held and friendships being established between families.

**Maintaining High Expectations and Standards.**

- School Leadership Meeting held weekly.
- School Management Forum meeting held monthly. A teacher representative from each year level and facet of school operations attend.
- School Studies Meeting held monthly. A teacher representative from each year level attends.
- Child Needs Committee meets weekly bringing all professional key practitioners together to co-ordinate intervention and support programmes.
- Teacher Staff Meetings held fortnightly.
- Teacher-aide, facilities, administration staff meetings are held monthly.
- School Health & Safety Committee (including P&C Association rep) meets each school term.
- Student Council (including Years 4-7 class representatives) meet monthly.
- School Local Consultative Committee (including union representatives) meet with the principal each term.
- School Council meets five times annually.
- Parents' and Citizens' Association meets monthly.
- Enrolment interviews are held by Deputy Principal (with parent and child).
- Student Responsibility Booklet issued to all families at time of student enrolment; and when redrafted.
- Student Competitions (a) Public speaking (b) Art (c) Mathematics (d) Literacy challenge (e) Tennis.
- Share a consistent and ongoing message of high expectations for all students and their learning.

LEARNING PARTNERSHIPS

Learning is not limited to the classroom. The beliefs, expectations and experience of parents are a powerful determinant in student's achievement. Understanding the school, home and community contribution to student learning helps cultivate a holistic learning environment. McDowall State School does this by:-

- **Providing learning and information opportunities for School Council and Parents' & Citizens' Association members.**
 - P&C Association contact and engagement with P&C Qld seminars and workshops.
 - P&C Association contact and engagement with speakers and presenters that deliver seminars and workshops.
 - Principal in collaboration with P&C Association, provide seminars and workshops that induct, inform members.
 - Principal in collaboration with School Council, provide seminars and workshops that induct, inform members.

- **Providing learning and information opportunities for parents.**
 - New enrolment, parents' information evening - October.
 - Commencement of school, year level and class information evenings - February.
 - One-to-one lap top information sessions - November.
 - Instrumental music programme information evenings - November.
 - Child safety evenings – cyber safety and family planning.
 - TAPS programme – TARTAN TAPS (Teacher and Parent Seminars) is a McDowall State School initiative that provides parents of new Prep and Year One enrolments with information about effective ways to prepare young children for beginning school. The whole day seminars (and Part 1 and Part 2 twilight seminars) are presented by early primary teachers, and reflect the values and expectations of McDowall State School.
 - TADPOLES programme – TARTAN TADPOLES (Pre-Prep Child Induction Experience) is a McDowall State School initiative that provides pre-Prep children and their parent an opportunity to play and meet other pre-Prep children and their parents before beginning the Preparatory Year.
 - Celebration of Childhood Open Morning – information sessions by school and community organisations - October.
 - School Guidance Officer programs – 'Success for Kids', 'Positive Parenting Program'(PPP), 'Managing Young Children Program'(MYCP)
 - Reading Flying Gang (a) Volunteers hearing student reading (b) Monthly workshops / afternoon tea (c) Fortnightly newsletter.

- **Encouraging parent participation in school activities.**
 - Coaching sporting teams – running club, cross country, athletics, swimming, etc.
 - Providing teacher voluntary assistance within class - reading, art, maths and music groups.
 - Providing Recess Activity (a) Crafts (b) Hobbies (c) Expertise (d) Games (e) Donation of kits and equipment.
 - P&C Association Craft Club.
 - Involvement within a broad range of P&C Association initiatives, activities and programmes.

- **Developing local strategies to support the transition between early childhood education, care and primary school.**
 - TAPS programme – TARTAN TAPS (Teacher and Parent Seminars) is a McDowall State School initiative that provides parents of new Prep and Year One enrolments with information about effective ways to prepare young children for beginning school. The whole day seminars (and Part 1 and Part 2 twilight seminars) are presented by early primary teachers, and reflect the values and expectations of McDowall State School.
 - TADPOLES programme – TARTAN TADPOLES (Pre-Prep Child Induction Experience) is a McDowall State School initiative that provides pre-Prep children and their parent an opportunity to play and meet other pre-Prep children and their parents before beginning the Preparatory Year. This programme also enables the teacher to observe the child in a play setting and provides the teacher and the parent with opportunities to discuss strategies that can be used at home to better prepare the child for the Preparatory Year.
 - Celebration of Childhood Open Morning – information sessions by school and community organisations - October.
 - School website.
 - School information fliers distributed within school enrolment catchment area and to local child care providers - October.
 - Pre-enrolment Preparatory Year parent questionnaire, screening and interview process.
 - New enrolment, parents' information evening – October.
 - Commencement of school, year level and class information evenings – February.

- **Developing and maintaining links with our local State High Schools.**
 - Wavell literacy and numeracy challenge.
 - Craigslea SHS music programme – music groups regularly perform at McDowall State School gala evenings.
 - Albany Creek Maths Tournament.
 - Teachers from local high schools as guest judges for McDowall State School Year 7 speaking and art challenges.
 - Issue and publishing of promotional materials.

- **Developing and maintaining links with local environmental agencies and groups.**
 - Downfall Creek Bushland Centre.
 - Bunyaville Environmental Education Centre.
 - Nudgee Beach Environmental Education Centre.
 - Moreton Bay Environmental Education Centre.
 - Tallebudgera Camp School.

- **Providing learning and information opportunities for staff.**
 - Teacher Learning Network.
 - Professional Development Committee.
 - Performance development planning.
 - Staff meetings (a) Teachers (b) Teacher-aides (c) Administration (d) Facilities.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Schools do not exist in isolation – they are often the central hub of their community. Schools should leverage their position in the community to work together with other community members, for the benefit of all. McDowall State School does this by:-

- **Providing school facilities for community use.**
 - Tennis courts used for tennis coaching.
 - School hall used by various groups – tai kwon do, dance groups, drama groups.
 - School oval used by afl, cricket and soccer groups.

- **Recognition and acknowledgement of community partnerships.**
 - McDowall Stalwart Supporter Award – P&C Association award presented to a departing Year 7 parent acknowledging their devoted work within our school community.
 - Community Award – School and P&C Association award presented to a community member (staff, parent or community member) to acknowledge their outstanding contribution, above and beyond their normal role/duty, to our school community.
 - Celebration of Childhood Open Morning.
 - Sponsorship arrangements (a) Interschool singlets (b) Hirer issuing of notices to students (c) Managed signage (d) Not-for-profit community group notices within school website (e) P&C Association subsidisation of high level representative sporting costs.

- **Promoting and celebrating school events and achievements.**
 - Celebration of Childhood Open Morning. (a) Scouts (b) Guides (c) Brigade (d) Child Care Centres (e) Chermside Historical Society (f) Sporting groups (g) Family orientated organisations (h) Qld Fire & Rescue.
 - Grandparents' morning.
 - ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day observances.
 - Years 6-7 Presentations and Awards Assembly.
 - Parliamentarian sponsorship (a) Cross country – Federal member (b) Athletics – State member (c) Performing Arts – Council member.
 - Local business supporting school functions – sponsorship of Music Gala raffle prizes, Woolworths fruit stalls on sports days, fundraising.
 - North District Sports Association.
 - Metropolitan North Region Sports Association.
 - Book Week - Merrille O'Neill Award.
 - Public Speaking Competition.
 - Art Competition.
 - Tennis Competition.
 - Sports Award Assemblies – held each semester.
 - Student Leaders Badge Presentation Assembly.
 - School Captains Election Assembly.
 - Presentation of: (a) Junior Badges (b) Senior Badges.
 - McDowall Magic (a) Certificate awards on assembly (b) Year level winners – weekly prize issued by principal.
 - Acknowledgement and encouragement certificates issued on assembly.

- **DSTA – Defence School Transition Aide**
 - The DSTA programme enhances and facilitates the best possible educational outcomes for children of Australian Defence Force members. The DSTA Programme supports defence students and their families as they manage the changes in their lives due to relocation and deployment.

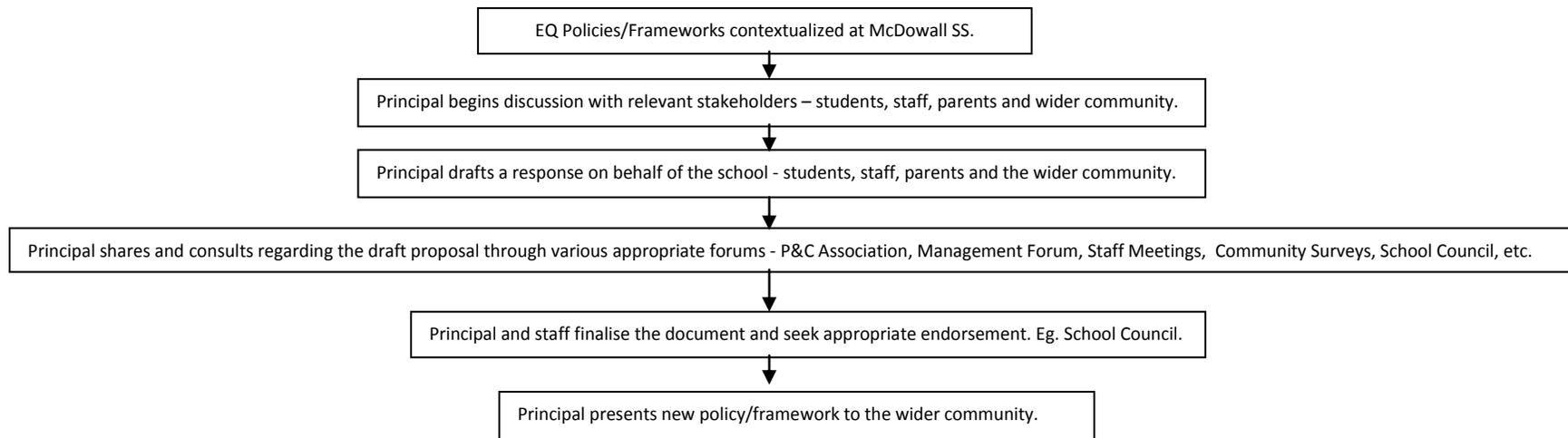
- **Community Partnerships**
 - Years 6-7 attend 'Walk of Remembrance' at Enoggera Army Barracks (sponsored by Wavell RSL).
 - Pet Prep – Local veterinarians, City Council and RSPCA programme teaching students pet care and safety messages.
 - Active School Travel in partnership with the Brisbane City Council.
 - Brisbane City Council programmes – recycling, worm farms , safe bus travel programme.
 - Brainstorm Productions – Anti bullying and cyber safety messages.
 - ACMA – Cyber safety education programmes (a) Students (b) Parents (c) Staff.
 - Sam Riley Swim School Programme – Junior School.
 - Royal Surf Lifesaving Programme – Year 6-7.
 - PCYC – Hip Hop programme and Drum Beat programme.
 - Education Queensland International (EQI) – hosting Japanese study tours.
 - School Sport – Queensland Rugby, Queensland Roar, Queensland Cricket – coaching clinics.
 - Parliamentarian sponsorship (a) Cross country – Federal member (b) Athletics – State member (c) Performing Arts – Council member.
 - Local business supporting school functions – sponsorship of Music Gala raffle prizes, Woolworths fruit stalls on sports days, fundraising.
 - Commonwealth Bank school banking.
 - Book Club.
 - Brisbane City Council Environmental Education programmes.
 - RACQ Streets Ahead Road Safety Programme.
 - Qld Police. (a) Adopt a Cop (b) Qld Pipes and Drums.
 - North District Sports Association.
 - Metropolitan North Region Sports Association.

DECISION-MAKING

Providing opportunities for relevant consultation to ensure decisions reflect local needs – whether for an individual student or the school as a whole. Greater community ownership and trust of school directions and decisions can be developed through open and authentic consultation. McDowall State School does this by:-

- **Providing and supporting consultative processes to inform decision making within the school.**
 - School Leadership Meeting – held weekly.
 - School Council meets five times annually.
 - School Management Forum meeting held monthly. Staff representative from each year level and facet of school operations.
 - School Studies Meeting held monthly. A teacher representative from each year level attends.
 - Child Needs Committee meets weekly bringing all professional key practitioners together to co-ordinate intervention and support programmes.
 - Teacher Staff Meetings held fortnightly.
 - Teacher-aide, facilities, administration staff meetings are held monthly.
 - School Local Consultative Committee (including union representatives) meet with the principal each term.
 - P&C Association meets monthly.
 - P&C Association sub-committees meet monthly or as required and report back to the P&C Association..
 - School Health & Safety Committee meets each term.
 - School Professional Development & Training Committee meets each term.
 - Student Council – Years 4-7 representatives meet monthly.
 - Year Level Professional Teams and/or Sectors meet alternate weeks to the Teacher Staff Meeting.

➤ **Providing a clear and consistent process for consultation to inform good decision-making.**



PARTICIPATION

In a society where parents lead complex lives, opportunities to participate in a variety of ways, times and places is key to improvement. Parent and community participation in student learning and the school community should be acknowledged and valued. Involvement sends a clear signal to students about the value of education. McDowall State School does this by:-

- **Promoting events and meetings on the school website and newsletters.**
 - 'Tartan Times' – school newsletter published fortnightly and placed within the school website.
 - School Date Claimers published on front page of 'Tartan Times'.
 - Emails forwarded to registered parents, to advise them when the 'Tartan Times' has been published.
 - 'Tartan Times' includes news, articles, stories, updates and reminders from school community.
 - P&C Association maintains a separate P&C Association website outlining P&C Association news, articles, stories, updates and reminders from the school community.
 - P&C Association maintains a Facebook site outlining P&C Association news, articles, stories, updates and reminders from the school community.
 - Generic email addresses are provided for (a) School Council (b) P&C Association Executive and key roles (c) Principal; and (d) School Administration.

- **Actively encouraging parents to become involved in school activities.**
 - News and articles published within the 'Tartan Times' school newsletter.
 - News and articles published within the school website.
 - Special purpose notices issued to parents.
 - Special purpose posters placed on external pin boards around the school.
 - News and announcement published on front page of the school website. Email notice advising parents of this announcement.
 - Parent Information Events (a) Year Level Evening – February (b) P&C Association Information Morning Tea – Day 1 and February (c) New Parent Information Evening – October (d) Parent / Teacher Interviews (e) Teacher requests to parents for voluntary support and involvement (f) Tartan Network communication and promotion (g) P&C Association member liaison and personal contact (h) School Council member liaison and personal contact; and (i) Promotion through student assemblies.

- **Acknowledging the work done by business, community and parent volunteers.**
 - School and P&C Association Community Award – annual.
 - P&C Stalwart Supporter Award – annual.
 - School Thank You Certificates and Letters of Appreciation.
 - P&C Association Thank You Certificates and Letters of Appreciation.
 - Parent morning and afternoon teas.
 - Acknowledgement and thank you notices placed within school newsletters, school assemblies, notices, etc.
 - Poster or banner displayed for designated time frame.
 - Code access parking made available – as designated by principal.

- **Inviting parents and community members to become involved as guest speakers, facilitators and presenters.**
 - Recess Activity voluntary assistance to share (a) Expertise (b) Hobbies (c) Arts & Crafts (d) Time with students.
 - Reading Flying Gang (a) Workshops (b) Personal sharing and observations (c) Peer support.
 - P&C Association supported parent training as a 'You Do It Parent Information Contact'.
 - P&C Association guest speakers and presenters for (a) P&C Association General Meetings (b) Parent Information Morning Teas.
 - Celebration of Child Open Morning – Stalls, workshops, seminars, presentations.
 - Specialist skills – contact School Administration and indicate your availability.