St. Mary's School Donnybrook

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19th October 2026

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

CHANGES TO ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND MEMBERSHIP APPOINTMENT PROCESSES

We wish to inform you of a change to the operation of Catholic School Advisory Councils (CSACs) and Parents and Friends Groups (P&Fs), following recent updates from Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA).

As part of CEWA's commitment to streamline practices, it has been determined that from 2026, Annual Community Meetings (ACMs) for CSACs and P&Fs will no longer be held. This change follows feedback regarding low attendance and participation throughout Western Australia, and stronger practices to promote community engagement, transparency and collaboration in Catholic schools.

What does this mean for our school community?

Rather than an ACM, the School will provide an Annual Community Report (ACR) to all families. This will include:

- Key updates on school strategies and activities
- The annual budget, including fee increases (for CSAC) and (if practicable) a summary of P&F financial activity
- Summary of the year's events by the Principal, CSAC Chair and (if practicable) P&F President, and
- Announcement of election results for CSAC and P&F positions.

Information about the nomination and election or appointment process for CSAC and P&F Committee members will be delivered at the start of Term 4 each year. The process is outlined below:

- These elections or appointments for CSAC and P&F Committee members will be conducted by either:
  - **1)** **Election at a School Meeting (P&F only)** This option may only be used for P&F Committees, as all members of the school community are eligible to attend. This is to either take place at last meeting of 2026 or the first meeting of 2027.
  - **2)** Conducted via an electronic ballot **(For CSAC and where appropriate for P&F)**
- With clear nomination and voting periods.
- By principal appointment, if no nominations are received (with rationale provided).
- All vacancies, outcomes and the final composition of the CSAC and P&F Committee will be communicated to the school community.

Catholic school parents and community members have a significant role in our community. It is intended for these approaches to enhance participation and move to more contemporary practices to assure that we communicate core school information more broadly.

Should you have any queries, please contact feedback@cewa.edu.au

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Gammon