

**Reflection Questions for Parent Groups**

These questions are designed to help formal school parent groups reflect from time to time on their purpose, ways of working, strengths, needs and next steps. Different topics can be chosen to form part of meeting agendas across the year, or all topics can be covered in a separately scheduled planning or evaluation session.

**VISION & GOALS**

* Is the group clear about its purpose and role in the school community?
* Do you think parents and school staff are clear about your group’s role? How do you know?
* Do parents understand and support the reason(s) for the events and activities you organise?

**COMMUNICATION**

* How does your group communicate with the wider parent community and how often?
* Are these communication strategies effective? Adequate?
* Do parents get all the information they need when they need it?
* What might you do differently?

**SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION**

* Does the wider school community have opportunities to participate in your planning, decision-making and evaluation processes? (e.g. forums, surveys, feedback forms, Facebook posts)
* How would you judge your success in inviting and achieving input and feedback?

**RESOURCES**

* What resources (people, dollars, information, networks) are available to you to carry out your work?
* Are these adequate? Why? Why not?
* What are one or two things that would make a difference? How might you achieve these resources?

**MORALE**

* Is there a sense of wellbeing and satisfaction within your group?
* Is there a sense of openness and trust?
* Do members feel appreciated?
* Is the voluntary work of all parents in your school community identified, valued and celebrated?
* What role does your group take in ‘noticing’ and celebrating parent participation in the life of your school?

**INNOVATION**

* Is there room to grow, develop and change?
* Are new ideas welcomed and explored? Activated?

Note

The Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities offers:

* Resources on our website
* Advice/support over the phone or via email
* Facilitation services in team building, action planning, reflection and review and managing meetings.