

Are you getting the most out of your child's school?

Your child's school is more than just a place where children make friends and learn how to read and write. It's a social hub for parents that provides a host of opportunities for you to meet new people and build a network of friends that all live locally.

Like-minded people

You have something in common with all the other parents who have children at Our Lady Star of the Sea: you all made a good decision in your choice of school. Now you're a part of the school community, you have the chance to get a lot out of it, and the best way to do that is to put something into it by getting involved in the school's activities.

Why be engaged?

When you're a part of your child's school:

- you have a better relationship with your child
- you become a part of the school community
- you establish a valuable network of friends with the parents of other children
- you have a lot of fun.

Most important of all, your children will have a sense of pride and excitement and get a big boost to their self-esteem when they see you getting involved; they'll know that you're interested in what they're doing; they'll do better and get more out of the school.



How can I be engaged?

There are lots of ways, here are just a few examples.

During school hours

- working in the canteen
- helping in the classroom (reading groups, sharpening pencils)
- coaching school sports teams at gala days
- visiting class to talk about your experiences.

At any time

- helping to organise fundraising events for school, e.g. disco, trivia nights, etc.
- helping to prepare the annual Fair by the Sea and working on a stand
- volunteering to be a Class Parent
- joining the Parents & Friends committee or contributing to one of their sub-committees
- helping out in excursions, discos, swimming and sports carnivals
- donating items for craft and classroom use
- covering books
- collating Coles/Woolworths docket for fundraising
- helping out in concerts & plays (organising & dressing children, creating & washing costumes).

Socially

- attending social events
- organising class get-togethers for parents
- being available to mind other parents' children during an emergency or a time of need
- assisting with Parish activities like the Trivia Night, working bees, Christmas nativity
- helping with Year Mass, liturgies, the Sacramental programme, or any other activities.

We're sure you can think of many more, but remember *it doesn't have to:*

- **take a lot of your time**
- **cost any money**
- **be during school hours.**

I'm not really sure...

We understand that many people are reluctant to get involved at the school, and for lots of good reasons, like some of these:

- 'We both work full-time.'
- 'I've got other small children I have to look after.'
- 'I don't want to get roped into ongoing responsibilities.'
- 'I don't have anything useful to offer.'
- 'I'm not comfortable in classrooms.'
- 'Someone else is already doing it.'
- 'I can't see any benefit to me or my child in this.'



Everyone has their reasons, but we're not asking you to devote huge amounts of time—often it's small things that make a big difference.

Most of all, we want you to feel welcome, included and involved for a few years that will pass by in the blink of an eye.



Every little bit helps

We're all busy people, and our involvement in the school necessarily has to fit into our complex daily schedules.

However you decide to get involved, you can be certain that the staff of Our Lady Star of the Sea, and the parents who are already actively involved, will welcome any contribution you make.

Most importantly, your children will appreciate it.



Okay, what do I do now?

- **Read the weekly newsletter** so you know what's going on in the school and when. You can subscribe by email at www.olssdbb.catholic.edu.au
- Ask your Class Parent how to get involved.
- Come to the Parents & Friends meeting each term.
- Talk to other parents about what they're doing.
- Find us on Facebook.
- Ask at the office, call us or send an email to olss@dbb.catholic.edu.au

Remember: all types of participation are valued. We look forward to seeing you!



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An involved parent is one who is

- *interested* in their child's education
- *contributing* to the school community
- *supporting* what the school is doing
- *communicating* with their children.

Being engaged in your child's school

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Terrigal

