Within a Catholic school, parents/caregivers can exercise roles at any given time which see them as teachers, learners, supporters and advocates.

As stated in Article V Section 2.3 of this Constitution and Commentary, the Board and the Parents and Friends Association (P & F) have a relationship which is based on the different but complementary roles they exercise in the school. The essential difference is that the P & F is the official parent body in the school while the Board is part of the official governance structure of the school.

Parents/caregivers are engaged in both forums and do so within the scope and limitations of the constitutions for each group.

Members of the Board do not represent any individuals or groups when engaged in their deliberations but draw upon their experience and shared wisdom to discharge the responsibilities of the Board. Quite clearly, members of the P & F can represent the views of parents in their meetings and the P & F Association has an advocacy role in representing the views and interests of parents within the school and beyond. Individual parents/caregivers will undertake such a role with the approval of the P & F.

Beyond these groups, parents/caregivers engage with the school in a variety of ways for the benefit of their own children, the children of others, the staff and the school community generally. Such participation is primarily an opportunity for parents/caregivers to exercise their rights and responsibilities as the first educators to be partners with the school staff in the ongoing education and formation of their children.

This activity will be governed by a range of policies and procedures which are established by the school's lawful authorities in the context of Church and Civil Law.

For further reflection on the role of parents and the Parents and Friends Association, the reader is referred to the website of the Federation of Parents and Friends Associations Queensland www.pandf.org.au

Of particular interest will be the Parent Manual, P & F Constitution and the Information Sheet Parents in Partnership.

School T-shirts and Jackets with emblem are available from the P & F school uniform shop.