Parents/guardians have a vital role to play in supporting their child during the various stages of the educational journey.

You can subscribe to a free email newsletter Parent Update helping you to stay in touch with what is happening in the education system. To register visit http://www.education.vic.gov.au/aboutschool/participation/parentupdate/default.htm

Here are a few further ways to be involved:

**Kindergarten**

Kindergarten programs operate in a variety of settings, including sessional centres and long day care centres. Each setting welcomes parent/carer involvement in the children’s program in some way.

This might include participation in activities with children and staff, assisting in a volunteer capacity in the program and social and fundraising activities.

Some community kindergarten programs operate as incorporated associations and some parents are directly involved in committees responsible for service management. Other community kindergarten programs are managed as clusters by separate organisations so parent responsibilities are reduced.


**School council**
Every government school in Victoria is governed by a school council comprising parents, the principal, staff and sometimes community members. School councils set the educational policy of a school, develop the strategic direction, approve annual budgets and facilitate school community engagement.

Elections for school councils are held at the start of the school year. For more information regarding school councils visit http://www.education.vic.gov.au/management/governance/schoolcouncil/default.htm

**Parent clubs**

Many schools have a club or association for parents seeking an active role in their child’s school. Parent clubs allow parents to participate and contribute to the wellbeing of the school community and the education of their child. Parent clubs help organise social, educational and fundraising activities.

**Volunteer groups**

Victorian government schools have volunteer programs and parents can participate in school activities. Parents who wish to volunteer can get involved in a variety of ways including helping out in the school canteen, assisting with school events and joining an environmental committee or cultural group.

**Career planning**

Parents have a key role to play in their child’s career planning. To help provide the best possible support and guidance, you need current information on the options and pathways that are available to your child. For information visit http://www.education.vic.gov.au/sensecyouth/careertrans/default.htm

**Further information**

For further information on Victorian government schools visit www.education.vic.gov.au

To access information on choosing a government primary or secondary school visit:
Contact your child’s school to find out more about volunteering opportunities and programs.