

Members of Parliament and candidates: working with schools

Elected members visiting schools

All elected members (local councillors and state and federal MPs) are welcome to visit schools within their own electorates by arranging directly with the principal, and do not require approval from the Education Minister's Office. MPs wishing to visit schools outside of their electorates must seek approval from the Office of the Minister for Education at education@ministerial.qld.gov.au.

State and federal elected members:

- can provide materials such as tents, eskies and banners that only display MP contact details, no political content, slogans or logos (see advertising below)
- may attend P&C meetings as members of the general public however no campaigning can occur
- cannot campaign while visiting schools – this includes commitments and announcements
- cannot distribute any materials that contain political party logos or slogans
- cannot meet with staff or students during school hours to provide a particular political viewpoint
- cannot sponsor schools or school-based events.

Non-elected candidates visiting schools

Non-elected political candidates in local, state and federal jurisdictions:

- are able to attend school events such as fetes and P&C meetings as a member of the general public but cannot campaign at these events
- are not allowed to visit schools for political purposes at any time
- are able to attend schools with a visiting MP, however are not allowed to promote themselves, address media or groups of students/staff or hand out political material
- are not allowed to promote themselves or advertise through school communication channels or at school-based events such as fetes
- cannot meet with staff or students during school hours to provide a particular political viewpoint
- cannot sponsor schools or school-based events.

Filming, photography and media

Any footage or photos of school staff and students that MPs or their staff take must have consent from the staff/parents/carers to be used (ie for social media posts). Note that the state school consent form is not appropriate for MP use.

MPs and non-elected political candidates are not permitted at any time to use footage of staff and students for campaigning purposes.

Schools logos cannot be used by MPs for communication purposes.

Use of school facilities

MPs, candidates and political parties are able to hire halls and other school facilities, as per the department's [Community use of state school facilities](#) procedure.

Advertising and signs

Advertisements or signage that provide the contact details for their elected local, state and federal sitting members is allowed.

Advertising that promotes a political party, politicians, candidates, political campaigns and/or slogans is not permitted.

Schools should not accept payment for this advertising – it should be viewed by the school as a community service and not a revenue stream.

Any advertising or signage must include an authorisation statement.

Pages 5-6 of the department's [Advertising procedure](#) defines how to set out a compliant sign or advertisement. Example below:



Visiting schools during a caretaker period

As per usual protocols, however state MPs in a state [caretaker period](#) wishing to visit schools outside their electorates must seek approval from the Office of the Director-General. Email Communication.OFFICEDG@qed.qld.gov.au.

Federal MPs wishing to visit schools outside their electorate in a caretaker period continue to seek approval through the Education Minister's office.

During this time, relevant elected members cannot campaign whilst visiting schools – this includes election commitments and announcements.

Non-elected political candidates are able to attend schools with a visiting MP, however are not allowed to promote themselves nor campaign – including election commitments and announcements.

MPs can contact the [relevant regional education office](#) if there are any concerns regarding these protocols.