

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AND IMPAIRMENTS POLICY

RATIONALE

Students with disabilities or impairments have a right to attend a mainstream government school, and to have their individual needs addressed. In certain cases, students may meet the Department of Education and Training's criteria for additional funding as determined by a range of assessments that indicate disabilities such as:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Severe Language Disorder
- Intellectual Disability
- Physical Disability
- Visual Impairment
- Hearing Impairment
- Severe Behaviour Disorder

In certain cases, a student may have a diagnosed disability or impairment that sits outside of these categories or may not meet the Department of Education and Training's criteria of eligibility for additional funding. In these cases, reasonable adjustments will be made for individual students support them in accessing curriculum programs and activities.

AIMS

- To provide all students with learning opportunities that cater for their individual needs and make reasonable adjustments to support students with disabilities and impairments.
- To ensure that those students who attract funding under the Program for Students with Disabilities have programs tailored to meet their special requirements.

IMPLEMENTATION

- A staff member will be assigned responsibility to coordinate the Program for Students with Disabilities, including:
 - Coordination of applications for funding
 - Employment and timetabling of integration aides
 - Coordination of Student Support Groups
 - Development and implementation of program budgets relating to the program

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- Working with school leadership to coordinate staff professional development, the need for buildings and grounds modifications and all other issues related to students with disabilities and their respective program needs

- The process for applications for funding under the Program for Students with Disabilities will occur within the timeframes set out by the Department of Education and Training each year as part of their “annual round” and “Year 6/7 Review” cycles to provide the maximum potential for applications to be successful, and to ensure a smooth transition for new students into our school setting.
- The school will co-ordinate with Student Support Services, any required external agencies, teachers and parents in order to collect the documentation required to form the basis of an application for funding for a student in the Program for Students with Disabilities.
- Parent consent will be obtained prior to an application for funding in the Program for Students with Disabilities being submitted and parents will be required to attend an Educational Needs Questionnaire meeting as part of the application process.
- The school will work within the Program for Students with Disabilities Guidelines as published by the Department of Education and Training.
- It is the role of the Department of Education and Training’s Wellbeing, Health and Engagement Division to determine eligibility for funding.
- For each child receiving funding support, a Student Support Group will be established consisting of the Disabilities and Impairments coordinator, the classroom teacher, the integration aide, parent/s and other members as agreed, to facilitate curriculum planning and resource provision.
- The role of the Student Support Group and its processes will be fully explained to all parties.
- Student Support Groups will be scheduled to meet at least once per term, and will make recommendations regarding the development and implementation of individual student programs including annual and short term student achievement goals, timelines and methods of evaluation, the use of support staff and external consultants, and the use of any additional resources required. All meetings will be documented and minutes distributed to all members of the Student Support Group.
- Communication with relevant consultants and support agencies will be undertaken on a needs basis.
- All students will be given the opportunity to participate in all curriculum programs. Program activities will be modified where appropriate; to address the individual needs of students under advice from members of the Student Support Group.
- Student Support Group meetings will be established for any student with disabilities or impairments who requires one. This can be initiated by the school, family or outside agencies.

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s on-going review cycle. It is anticipated that the policy will be reviewed after four years of implementation, however, changes as deemed necessary by the school’s leadership and/or changes in Departmental terminology may necessitate that the policy is reviewed at an earlier time.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	June 2021
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	June 2024