



Student Welfare Policy

Rationale:

Holy Spirit has a responsibility to ensure all students have opportunity to reach their full potential in all aspects of life: academically, physically, socially and emotionally. The school recognises the diverse learning needs of all students so is committed to providing an environment and curriculum that supports them to develop knowledge, understanding and skills according to their individual needs.

Aims of Policy:

- To ensure all students have the opportunity to reach their full potential in all areas
- To ensure all students' academic, physical, social and emotional needs are identified and targeted
- To ensure sufficient and appropriate supports and structures are implemented as needs arise
- To ensure no student is disadvantaged or prejudiced despite their particular needs
- To outline procedures to be followed for students whose needs vary to those of mainstream students
- To ensure that the school and families work in partnership to support all students

Related Policies:

- Student Wellbeing Policy
- Assessment and Feedback Policy
- Reporting Policy

Elements of this Policy:

- A) General Principles
- B) Identifying and Addressing Students' Additional Needs
- C) Students with Disabilities

Implementation:

A) General Principles

- We acknowledge that students have a range of abilities across all areas (academic, physical, social and emotional) and that there can be strength in one or more area, coupled with a lack of ability in one or more area
- We understand that students:
 - With a deficit in one or more areas may require significant intervention to reach their full potential
 - With a gift and/or talent in one or more area will need to be challenged and extended to reach their full potential
 - May be gifted or talented in one area but have a deficit in another area and need to be supported accordingly
- We acknowledge that positive school/family partnerships are imperative in ensuring the best outcome for students
- A Student Welfare Leader is appointed to coordinate monitoring and addressing students' additional needs
- An Educational Psychologist is employed to support addressing students' additional needs



B) Identifying and Addressing Students' Additional Needs

- Data and evidence on student progress in all areas is collected regularly through classroom assessmentsⁱ, classroom teaching sessions, observations and conversations with parents and is discussed on a regular basis:
 - At Planning Meetings
 - At Professional Learning Team Meetings
 - With the Student Welfare Leader as required
 - At Program Support Group Meetings
 - In Family Conferences
 - With parents as required
- Should a concern or issue be raised about a student, further relevant school-based assessments and/or observations will be conducted in order to more precisely determine the student's deficit or strength and next stage of learning
- Should the concern or issue be of a significant nature, professional support and/or assessments may be deemed necessary and will be followed up by the Student Welfare Leader
- Families will be informed should a concern or issue arise and will be consulted throughout the process
- Appropriate programs/and or strategies will be implemented to specifically address the identified needs; progress will be closely monitored and further action and/or investigation taken if deemed necessary
- Referrals to the school's psychologist or external bodies such as Catholic Education Melbourne will be coordinated by the Student Welfare Leader
- Personalised Learning Plans (PLPs) will be developed for students who need intervention or extension

C) Students with Disabilities

- Students with disabilities (SWDs) may or may not be funded under Catholic Education Melbourne's 'Student's with Disabilities' Program, depending on the student's diagnosis or assessment profile
- SWDs have a detailed Personalised Learning Program, which is reviewed on a regular basis
- SWDs have regular formal Program Support Group meetings (at least once per term if on funding), as well as less formal conversations about progress and needs
- Submissions for SWD funding are coordinated by the Student Welfare Leader
- Required assessments are organised by the Student Welfare Leader

Evaluation:

The Student Welfare Policy will be evaluated and reviewed as part of the 4 year School Review cycle or as required

Date of last review: August 2017

ⁱ Refer to the Holy Spirit Assessment and Feedback Policy