

St. Mary's Primary School

Enrolment Policy

(C.E.C.V. Document)

Rationale:

This policy is written with respect to the policy guidelines of the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria, as endorsed by the Victorian Catholic Bishops.

The Catholic Education Commission of Victoria encourages all Catholic parents to seek a place in a Catholic School for their children in accordance with their duties to do so. It is particularly concerned with providing Catholic education to those whose material and spiritual needs are the greatest.

Initiatives in the provision of places in Catholic schools, and the vigorous efforts being made by all concerned to live up to the ideals of Catholic education, lead us, the Bishops of Victoria, to reaffirm the Catholic school as the most appropriate means of ensuring the proper education of Catholic children.

(Statement issued by the Bishops of Victoria for the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria in April, 1978.)

Scriptural Context:

"Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the one who sent me."

Mark 9:37

Policy statement:

Catholic schools should develop adequate and appropriate educational programs, as well as intervention and support strategies for students, especially those with disabilities.

Catholic schools should ensure that access is made for all students, especially those who are Catholic.

Guidelines and realisation:

The St. Mary's School Board accepts the following considerations as policy:

1. Generally, the intellectual capacity of a child would not be a criterion of entry to the school. (c.f.4.)
2. Catholic children shall have a right to a place in the school. The school will support the parents of these children in their choice of a Catholic Education. The parents, in their turn have a responsibility to support the school in all aspects of its work to provide the best education possible according to the Catholic tradition.
3. Non-catholic children will be considered for enrolment provided it does not result in the exclusion of Catholic children from the school at that time. The parents of these children will be required to give an undertaking that they will respect the life,

nature and identity of the school. Once enrolled, these children will have the right to complete their Primary education at the school.

4. Children with special needs shall be considered on an individual basis. The principal, in consultation with the Parish Priest and an Enrolment Support Group (formed in accordance with CECV policy), and if necessary the School Board, will need to assess the school's capacity to provide adequate staffing, resources and facilities such as to ensure that the school can cater for the special needs of these children. A final decision should not be made until all additional avenues of support (finance, staffing, resources etc.) have been explored.
5. At all times the mission and aims of the school must be considered. Specifically, we must consider our duty to foster the growth of the children in the values of the Gospels. Whilst the degree of faith, commitment of the child's parents is a relevant consideration, it should not normally be a criterion for enrolling a child in our school.
6. While it is important that parents appreciate their responsibility to pay such fees and the St. Mary's School Board determines levies, it must be pointed out that no child would ever be excluded from the school because of non-payment of such fees and levies. Parents have the opportunity to make arrangements with the Principal or the Parish Priest for the reduction in the amount payable or for an exemption if warranted by the circumstances.
7. Before any enrolment can be confirmed, it must receive the endorsement of the Parish Priest, in accordance with his duties under Canon Law.
8. Governed by the message and spirit of the Gospels and Catholic Tradition, we will accommodate provisions of current awards and agreements of the Education Services (Catholic Schools) Conciliation and Arbitration Board.

Reflective materials:

Enrolment Policy for Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Melbourne

CECV 1990

Education provision for children with special needs. The integration of students with disabilities into regular catholic primary and secondary school.

CECV 1990

Pastoral Care policy St Mary's Donald

Policy revised: June 2007

Ratified:

Next revision date: 2011