

Explanatory Statement

Preamble: Catholic education is intrinsic to the mission of the Church. It is one means by which the Church fulfils its role in assisting people to discover and embrace the fullness of life in Christ. Catholic schools offer a broad, comprehensive curriculum imbued with an authentic Catholic understanding of Christ and his teaching, as well as a lived appreciation of membership of the Catholic Church. Parents and guardians, as the first educators of their children, enter into a partnership with the Catholic school to promote and support their child's education. Parents and guardians must assume a responsibility for maintaining this partnership with the school by supporting the school in furthering the spiritual and academic life of their children.

Along with the criteria outlined in this document, enrolment at this school is dependent upon individual class numbers. Resources available to the school, staffing requirements and financial considerations, all impact on whether there are places available in a particular class, and therefore this will change the number of enrolments we are able to accept in any given year. Families may be placed on a waiting list at their request.

Enrolment: You are required to provide particular information about your child during the enrolment process, both at the application stage and if the school offers your child a place.

Please note that lodgement of the enrolment form does not guarantee enrolment at the school.

To meet school and government requirements, you will need to provide the school with a completed enrolment form including, amongst other things, the information listed below.

- * evidence of your child's date of birth, e.g. birth certificate, passport
- * information about the language(s) your child speaks and/or hears at home
- * religious denomination
- * immunisation certificate (showing whether your child has been immunised against diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, whooping cough and haemophilus influenza type B)
- * certificate of Baptism (and Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation, if these sacraments have been completed)
- * nationality and/or citizenship including the visa sub-class granted upon entry to Australia (prior to citizenship being granted) where applicable.
- * names and addresses of the child and parents/guardians; telephone numbers (home, work, mobile) of parents/guardians
- * doctor's name and telephone number
- * parent/guardian occupation and level of education attained
- * medical information about your child (for example, does the child suffer from asthma, diabetes, allergies, poor eyesight/hearing, a diagnosed disability, etc.) and details of any medication that the school will be requested to administer to the child or health/attendant care needs, names of emergency contacts and their details
- * information on additional learning needs (for example, does your child require additional support in relation to mobility, language, social skills development, welfare needs, challenging behaviours, adjustments to the curriculum, etc.)
- * specific residence arrangements
- * parenting agreements or court orders, including any guardianship orders
- * permission to contact previous schools

After lodgement of this form, school staff may need to request further information from you, for example in relation to any parenting orders, medical conditions or additional learning needs that you have noted on the enrolment form. In addition, parents / guardians are to attend a meeting with the school staff prior to enrolment to discuss any additional needs your child may have. An interpreter may be organised, if you require it. Subject to any special exercise of discretion by the Parish Priest, the following list provides an agreed order of priority for enrolment in our school, which is consistent with the enrolment policy for all Catholic primary schools.

The order of priority is:

- (a) Catholic children who are residents of the parish
- (b) Catholic children who do not reside in the parish but are recognised as parishioners by the Parish Priest
- (c) Catholic children from other parishes (for pastoral reasons)
- (d) children from non-Catholic Eastern churches who reside in the parish
- (e) children from non-Catholic Eastern churches who reside outside the parish
- (f) other Christian children who reside in the parish
- (g) other Christian children who reside outside the parish
- (h) non-Christian children who reside in the parish
- (i) non-Christian children who reside outside the parish.

Fees: The setting of fee levels and other compulsory charges in Catholic primary schools is the responsibility of the school, taking into account the allocation of government funds. The school offers a number of methods for paying fees to reduce any financial burden and to assist financial planning. If you have difficulty in meeting the required fee payment, you are welcome to discuss this with the Principal of the school or the Business Manager.

The fees must be paid for a child to enrol and to continue enrolment at the school. The school has discretion whether to allow a child to participate in optional or extracurricular school events, such as paid school excursions or extracurricular activities, while fees remain due and payable.

Enrolment under minimum school entry age: The minimum starting age for a child to be enrolled in a Victorian school is four years and eight months, i.e. a child must turn five by 30 April in the year of starting school. The school will make an assessment of a child's readiness for school when considering the enrolment of a child under the minimum age. Enrolment under minimum school entry age is not encouraged.

In the rare situations where:

- a) a parent/guardian seeks enrolment of a child under the minimum starting age
- b) the Principal supports the enrolment of that child at the school if approval were granted the approval of the Director of Catholic Education is required before enrolment under the minimum starting age can occur. Approval for early age enrolment will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.

Terms of enrolment regarding acceptable behavior: Our school is a community that exemplifies the gospel values of love, forgiveness, justice and truth. The school community recognises that everyone has the right to be respected, to feel safe and be safe; and in this regard, understands their rights and acknowledges their obligation to behave responsibly.

Every person at the school has a right to feel safe, to be happy and to learn, therefore we aim:

- a) to promote the values of honesty, fairness and respect for others;
- b) to acknowledge the worth of all members of the community and their right to work and learn in a positive environment;
- c) to maintain good order and harmony;
- d) to affirm cooperation as well as responsible independence in learning; and
- e) to foster self-discipline and to develop responsibility for one's own behaviour.

The school administration, in consultation with the school community wherever appropriate, will prescribe standards of dress, appearance and behaviour for the student body. As a term of your child's enrolment, parents and guardians are expected to comply with the school's behaviour aims and the school's Code of Conduct, and to support the school in upholding prescribed standards of dress, appearance and behaviour. Unacceptable behaviour by a child, or repeated behaviour by a parent or guardian that, in the school's view, is unacceptable and damaging to the partnership between parent/guardian and school, may result in suspension or termination of the child's enrolment.

Terms of enrolment regarding conformity with principles of the Catholic faith: As a provider of Catholic education, the school Principal will take into account the need for the school community to represent and conform with the doctrines, beliefs and principles of the Catholic faith when making decisions regarding matters of school administration, including enrolment.

Pupils and families who are members of other faiths are warmly welcomed at our school. However, the school reserves its right to exercise its administrative discretion in appropriate circumstances, where it is necessary to do so to avoid injury to the religious sensitivities of the Catholic school community.

Terms of enrolment regarding provision of accurate information: It is vitally important that the school is made aware of each child's individual circumstances insofar as these may impact upon his or her physical, functional, emotional or educational needs, particularly where the school is required to provide additional support to the child. Parents and guardians must provide accurate and up to date information when completing an enrolment form and must supply the school, prior to enrolment, any additional information as may be requested, including copies of documents such as medical/specialist reports (where relevant to the child's schooling), reports from previous schools, court orders or parenting agreements. Provision of requested documentation is regarded as a condition of enrolment, and enrolment may be refused where a parent/guardian has unreasonably refused to provide requested information or knowingly withheld relevant information from the school.

Where, during the course of a child's enrolment, new information becomes available that is material to the child's educational and/or safety/wellbeing needs, it is a term of the child's continuing enrolment that such information is provided to the school promptly. The provision of an inaccurate residential address or failure to provide an updated residential address for the child will also be treated as a breach of the terms of enrolment.

Enrolment for children with additional needs: The school welcomes parents/guardians who wish to enrol a child with additional needs and will do everything possible to accommodate the child's needs, provided that an understanding has been reached between the school and parents/guardians prior to enrolment regarding:

- a) the nature of any diagnosed or suspected medical condition/disability, or any other circumstances that are relevant to the child's additional learning needs (for example, giftedness or an experience of trauma);
- b) the nature of any additional assistance that is recommended/appropriate to be provided to the child (for example, medical or specialist equipment, specialist referrals, specific welfare support, modifications to the classroom environment or curriculum, aide assistance, individualised educational programs, behaviour support plans or other educational interventions as may be relevant);
- b) c) the individual physical, functional, emotional or educational goals that are appropriate to the child, and how the parents/guardians and the school will work in partnership to achieve these goals; and
- d) any limitations on the school's ability to provide the additional assistance requested.

The process for enrolling students with additional needs is otherwise the same as for enrolling any student.

As every child's educational needs can change over time, it will often be necessary for the school to review any additional assistance that is being provided to the child, in consultation with parents/guardians and the child's treating medical/allied health professionals, in order to assess:

- a) whether the additional assistance remains necessary and/or appropriate to the child's needs
- b) whether the additional assistance is having the anticipated positive effect on the child's individual physical, functional, emotional or educational goals
- c) whether it remains within the school's ability to continue to provide the additional assistance, given any limitations that may exist.

Assessment and updates: Various opportunities are provided during the year to let you know your child's progress. You will receive two comprehensive written reports each year, and arrangements will be made for at least one interview where you can discuss your child's progress with the teacher. In addition, you can always contact the school to arrange a meeting with the teacher if you have concerns or wish to have an update on progress.