

Disabilities Policy

Purpose:	The purpose of this policy is to meet the educational needs of students with disabilities in a manner that complies with relevant anti-discrimination and accreditation legislation, considering the student's learning needs while also aiming to balance the interests of all parties affected.	
Scope:	This policy applies to employees, volunteers, parents/caregivers and students and outlines the procedures for identifying and enrolling students with disabilities and the process undertaken to develop individual education programs for students so identified.	
Status:	Approved	
Authorised by:	College Council	Date of Authorisation: 20 Mar 2020
References: Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 (Qld) • Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986 (Cth) • Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth) • Disability Standards for Education 2005 (Cth), including Guidance Notes • Australian Education Act 2013 (Cth) • Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 (Qld) 	
Related School Policies / Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prince of Peace Lutheran College Child Protection Policy and Procedures • Prince of Peace Lutheran College Code of Conduct for Staff • Prince of Peace Lutheran College Complaints/Disputes Procedure • Prince of Peace Lutheran College Privacy Policy 	
Review Date:	Review 5 years	Next Review Date: March 2025
Policy Owner:	College Council	

Aims

The Prince of Peace Lutheran College values the diversity of all students including those with special educational needs, recognises the right of all students to equitable access to the curriculum, and offers education programs specific to the educational needs of students with disabilities.

The Prince of Peace Lutheran College will assist the full participation of students with disabilities by:

- valuing all students as individuals and identifying and responding to their needs;
- consulting with the student and parent to make well-informed decisions about the education program to be developed for each student with a disability;
- identifying and addressing barriers that limit students' opportunities, participation and benefits from schooling;
- providing an appropriate level of resources within available funds in order to reasonably accommodate the needs of students with disabilities;
- making reasonable adjustments in modifying, substituting or supplementing curricula, course work requirements, timetables, teaching methods and materials, and assessment procedures to meet the needs of students with disabilities;
- facilitating options and pathways for students with disabilities;
- providing physical environments that are accessible, stimulating, safe and welcoming;
- devising fair and transparent enrolment procedures for all students, including those with disabilities;
- respecting the rights of people with disabilities to privacy and confidentiality;
- fostering and encouraging among staff and students, positive, informed and unprejudiced attitudes towards people with disabilities; and
- supporting and assisting students to make alternative satisfactory educational arrangements when the school is unable to meet their needs.

Implementation

The Prince of Peace College's enrolment policy is inclusive of all students. The criteria for enrolment are clearly set out in the application for enrolment form, including how decisions are made with regard to priority in the enrolment process. Where the number of places available is limited, priority is decided as per the enrolment policy.

It is important to us that we, as a school, can meet the educational needs of each child. For this reason, all parents are required to complete the questions attached to the school enrolment form which facilitate the enrolment process and enable us to determine the resources required to meet each individual student's needs.

If a child has special education needs, parents/caregivers are asked to sign a permission form which allows the College to collect information from specialist personnel who may have information to assist in meeting the needs of their child. Specialist personnel may include the child's previous school, disability agencies, medical and allied health professionals and ascertainment personnel.

The collection, use, and disclosure of information about a child is protected by the provisions of the College's Privacy Policy; a copy of which can be obtained from our website or from reception.

Identification

The level of specialist educational support required by students with disabilities is identified through the Student Support Plan process. This includes the collection of information from parents or caregivers at interview, completion of a questionnaire, consultation with specialist personnel, including the School's support teacher, and formal ascertainment procedures, if appropriate.

The collation of this information will help ascertain the student's need for:

- Physical access- equipment, building modification
- Personal care
- Health care management – medication, emergency procedures
- Communication
- Specific teaching strategies

Based on the information gathered, the Head of College or delegated staff member (e.g. Head of Campus) will make a preliminary assessment of the student's curriculum support needs, and the College's ability to meet these needs.

At this time the Head of College, or delegated staff member, will meet with parents/caregivers to discuss the outcomes of the information-gathering process and to present the educational program the College can offer. This discussion may involve:

- the student, if appropriate
- special education advisers from The Association of Independent Schools of Queensland
- agency representatives
- therapists, counsellors, other professionals
- an advocate
- an interpreter

It is possible at this time that the enrolment will not proceed because parents form the view that the College cannot meet their child's needs, or the College can demonstrate that the enrolment will cause unjustifiable hardship.

Education Program

On confirmation of enrolment, parents will receive, in writing, an outline of the support the College can offer the student in order for them to access the curriculum successfully.

The Student Support Plan will include such matters as:

- A:** the basis for the comprehensive collection of the information about the needs of students with disabilities. A list of the information collected and the significance of the information to the formation of the Support Plan.
- B:** the documentation of curriculum/assessment modifications and issues related to behaviour management, liaison with parents and outside agencies, as appropriate. It will outline resource requirements, including facilities and equipment, evacuation and emergency

procedures, reporting requirements, and training requirements for staff or others who work with the student.

- C: the development of Health Care Plans for students with health support needs.

The Student Support Plan will be reviewed at the end of each semester and at this time parents will be requested to meet with the Head of Campus, or delegated representative, in order to discuss the progress of their child.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the College's five-year review cycle.