



ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

INCLUSION POLICY

Rationale

St. Patrick's Primary school is a place where the social, emotional, educational and physical needs of all students are of the utmost importance. It is a school that encourages respect for diversity in ability as well as cultural, racial, ethnic and social backgrounds and is based on the notion that we will continually work towards providing for the needs of all students in our community. Corporal Punishment is prohibited at St. Patrick's Primary School.

Definitions

Inclusive education ensures that St. Patrick's school is a supportive and engaging place for all school community members. Inclusive education means that every day in every classroom, every student is learning and achieving in a safe, supportive, inclusive and disciplined learning environment. The Equal Opportunity Act 1995 sets out the types or grounds of discrimination that are unlawful and aims to promote community recognition and acceptance of the equality of men and women, and the equality of people of all races, regardless of their religious or political convictions, their impairments or their age. Under the act it is unlawful to discriminate against a person on the basis of the following attributes:

- age
- breastfeeding
- gender identity
- impairment
- marital status
- parental status or status as carer
- physical features
- political belief or activity

- pregnancy
- race
- religious belief or activity
- sexual orientation

Aims

St. Patrick's School aims to be an inclusive school. We actively seek to remove the barriers to learning and participation that can hinder or exclude individual pupils or groups of pupils. This means that equality of opportunity must be a reality for all our children. We make this a reality through the attention we pay to the different individuals and groups of children within our school:

- girls and boys
- minority ethnic and faith groups
- children who need support to learn English as an additional language
- children with additional learning needs
- able and talented children
- children who are at risk of disaffection or exclusion
- asylum seekers

Implementation

- The school will aim to have completed applications for support funding in a timely manner through the Program for Students with Special Needs if deemed eligible
- Termly student support groups (PSG) are an integral part of the process for catering for students with a disability and support the ongoing management of individual learning plans (ILPs) created by the classroom teacher, with parent input

- Students who require support with social experiences will be offered other lunch time programs as an alternative to playing outside
- Appropriate professional development will be made available to teachers, leadership, education support staff and, where possible, made available to the school community. As particular needs are identified; appropriate resources will be sought so that the school can continue to meet the needs of each child
- Celebration of diversity will be encouraged
- Individual learning plans must be developed and reviewed regularly for the following students: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, students that are funded, students with behavioral challenges but not funded, students with a diagnosed disability but not funded, and students with severe social and emotional needs but not funded

Professional Learning

Staff Professional Learning is given high priority at St. Patrick's Primary School to ensure the strategies and approaches adopted are implemented with integrity.