



St Anthony's School

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ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS POLICY

In *Catholic Schools - A Statement of Understanding and Vision for the Diocese of Parramatta* (1990); the Diocesan Schools Board has expressed its strong commitment to students with disabilities. In particular, the school should provide:

... a range of learning opportunities so that all students can gain knowledge and develop skills and competence necessary to participate in and contribute to society.

Rationale

We believe that:

- Every child has a fundamental right to an education and must be given the opportunity to achieve and maintain an acceptable level of learning
- Every child has unique characteristics, interests, abilities and learning needs
- Educational programs should be designed and implemented to include these characteristics and needs
- The instruction and inclusion of students with additional learning needs is achieved through the combined support of Class Teachers, Learning Support Teachers, Teacher Assistants, Volunteers and Parents
- A collaborative approach to each individual's learning is necessary through regular communication with parents, teachers and other stakeholders.

Aims

- Provide Individual Plans for all students who are subject to additional learning needs funding and facilitate their implementation
- Assess all students regularly to measure student growth and determine directions for further learning
- Establish a learning support team in each grade, where teachers work together to plan and cater for the needs of all students
- Provide a framework for the communication of student learning to all stakeholders
- Facilitate the use of a referral form by teachers if they feel that any of their students may be at risk
- Refer students to the CEO for further assessment by an Educational Psychologist or Speech Therapist
- Support teachers with resources and advice related to students with additional learning needs

- Liaise with feeder schools to facilitate the transition of Year 6 students into high school.

Implementation

- A Student Learning Team exists in each grade to assess (refer to *Assessment and Reporting Policy*), devise and implement learning and teaching experiences for all students
- The learning of each student is the primary responsibility of the classroom teacher, who draws upon the professional judgement and expertise of the Student Learning Team
- A framework is in place for the regular meeting and communication of students' learning progress in each grade (refer to *Management of Student Learning*)
- Within this professional dialogue, some students may be identified as being at particular risk in their learning. The Learning Support Team may determine that a referral needs to be made to the Catholic Education Office for assessment
- In such cases, the Classroom Teacher, with the assistance of the Learning Support Team, will:
 - Submit an assessment referral to the Catholic Education Office
 - Act upon the recommendations of any assessment undertaken
 - Maintain continual communication with parents and other stakeholders
- If an assessment determines that additional funding should be provided, an Individual Plan must be prepared for that student. An annual meeting is convened with the Classroom Teacher, Learning Support Teacher and parents for this purpose. Again, responsibility for assessing and implementing this plan rests with the classroom teacher, with the support of the Student Learning Team
- When students leave St. Anthony's School, the school passes on information about their learning to their next school (pending parental permission). Feeder high schools have frameworks in place to gain information about their new students from Year 6 teachers.

Budget

A budget will be provided for the professional development of staff and acquisition of resources.

Evaluation

The Principal, with delegated responsibility to Leadership Team members will be responsible for the planning, implementation and review of this program every two years.