

ST MARY'S COLLEGE

EST. 1869

ENROLMENT POLICY

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1. Context

St Mary's College welcomes applications from all families seeking a Catholic education for their child/ren. In realising its purpose and values, St Mary's provides a dynamic learning environment tailored to the learning and developmental needs of girls, offering a rich variety of experiences for its students within and beyond the classroom. Since our establishment in 1869 we have always enjoyed working in partnership with families.

As a Catholic school in the Dominican tradition, St Mary's embraces and celebrates each person. We work in partnership with families to meet the learning, wellbeing and care needs of all students. This is reflected in efforts to provide access to learning for families from a wide range of financial and social backgrounds.

2. Purpose

St Mary's College aims to provide clarity around the criteria and procedures involved in the enrolment process.

3. Policy Statement

St Mary's College welcomes all Catholic families, as well as families from other churches and faith traditions, and non-religious backgrounds who are prepared to value and respect the ethos, values, liturgical and sacramental practices and traditions of the Catholic Church within the context of the school.

4. Scope

This policy applies to all parents/caregivers seeking an enrolment at St Mary's College and the staff involved in the enrolment process.

5. Principles

Key principles underpin enrolment at St Mary's College. These include:

5.1 A process that enables the integrity of each enrolment to be judged on its own merits, in accord with the criteria outlined in this document.

5.2 A willingness for parents/caregivers to accept, work in partnership and support:

- The purpose, ethos, traditions and values of the College and the Catholic principles in which the school is grounded.
- Shared responsibility for the formation and development of their child.
- The conditions of enrolment and policies which govern the educational program.
- The stance of the College in relation to established policies and practices.

5.3 The College reserves the right not to offer any child a place at the College or to defer the offer of a place in its discretion.

5.4 Where the parents/caregivers have withheld knowledge or information pertinent to their child's educational needs, the College also reserves the right to terminate an enrolment where there are not sufficient resources to adequately support the child's needs.

5.5 St Mary's College has a Wellbeing and Inclusion Teams to oversee the needs of students with diagnosed learning disabilities and difficulties. An application for enrolment for a student with a disability will be considered on the same basis as all other enrolment applications and in accordance with the legal obligations of the Disability Discrimination Act (1992), the Disability Standards for Education (2005) and the Equal Opportunity Act (SA) 1984. Notwithstanding this, all St Mary's students have equal access to the education opportunities provided by the College.

6. Enrolment Criteria

When considering making offers of enrolment, consideration is given to:

- Children who are Catholic and active members of a parish community.
- Children who are currently attending a Catholic parish primary school.
- Children of alumni/old scholars.
- Siblings of current or past students.
- Children who are already enrolled in Catholic schools, in rural communities, interstate or overseas, and whose families are transferring.
- Children from other schools seeking a Catholic education.
- Date of application.

The priority considerations are not in hierarchical order. It is the responsibility of the Principal to enrol students at the College and relevant circumstances will be considered when making decisions.

7. Related Documents and References

- SACCS Enrolment Policy (2016)
- Disability Discrimination Act (1992) http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/dda1992264/
- Disability Standards (2005) https://www.education.gov.au/disability-standards-education-2005
- Equal Opportunity Act (SA) 1984 http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/sa/consol_act/eoa1984250/

8. Revision Record								
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