



2.10 PRIMARY EQUITY AND ACCESS

JANUARY 2009

Rationale

St. Mary's strives to ensure that all students have access to the benefits of education irrespective of their sex, socio-economic background, disability or individual difference.

Aims

- Provide students with learning opportunities that caters for individual needs and differences
- Ensure that all students who receive disabilities and impairments funding have programs tailored to meet their special requirements
- Provide an environment that is supportive of, and responsive to, the physical, social, emotional and academic needs of students with significant health problems
- Advise all eligible parents to apply for the Education Maintenance Allowance (E.M.A.)

Implementation

- Each student with a disability, impairment or significant health problem has a Program Support Group established for them consisting of classroom teacher, area co-ordinator, integration aide, parent/guardian and professional health care worker
- The Program Support Group should meet at least once a term or as required
- The Program Support Group facilitates curriculum planning and resource provision. The group makes recommendations to the appropriate Subject Coordinator regarding individual student programs such as student's achievement goals, evaluation methods the use of an integration aide and health professionals and the purchasing of any additional resources required
- All students are to have their individual physical, social, emotional and academic needs identified and addressed
- Classroom activities such as learning centres, ESL, and drama will cater for individual differences

- The school, where possible, will provide flexible programs for special ability groupings, classroom enrichment and extension, and the provision of varied teaching strategies
- Integration aide is timetabled to assist funded students within the mainstream classroom
- Teacher aides are timetabled to assist children who are participating in learning centres
- Parents/Guardians of students with significant health needs are required to meet with any key staff to develop an individual plan that details the student's needs, as well as detailing an anticipated schedule of school or hospital attendance etc
- All staff associated with students with health needs will be made aware of the student's condition and requirements. Staff will have professional development as required to support the student's needs
- The college will maintain appropriate contact with students (and parents/guardians) during times in hospital, so as to provide social, emotional and academic support
- The college has installed ramps, a lift to the library and easy access toilets to aid those with disabilities or special health needs
- Details relating to the E.M.A. (Education Maintenance Allowance) eligibility, and due dates for applications will be communicated to parents via the college newsletter, in languages appropriate to the school community so as to ensure all eligible parents are aware of application requirements
- Approximately 42% of the college's families receive E.M.A. College staff are aware of the low socio-economic background and strive to provide experiences through excursions and camps (Canberra and Ballarat) that the students may not otherwise experience
- The school holds fund raising throughout the year to purchase additional resources

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