



## ENROLMENT POLICY

### PURPOSES

To operate the College in a manner that would make it accessible to as many Christadelphian children as possible.

To maintain a College environment that meets the individual academic, social, emotional and physical needs of its students.

To provide access for non-Christadelphian families in accordance with requirements contained in this Policy.

To abide by the *Disability Standards for Education 2005 (Standards) Act* for students with a disability as defined under the *Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)*.

### GENERAL GUIDELINES

#### Publicity

Information on the College and the enrolment procedure is to be made available to the community.

#### Enrolment

Enrolment is not guaranteed. Recognition needs to be taken of the child's individual needs and the College's ability to meet those needs as well as the student's and caregiver's agreement and compliance with the ethos of the College.

The College reserves the right to refuse enrolment or to terminate the enrolment.

Students with disabilities are to be treated on the same basis as students without disabilities. This includes admission and enrolment as well as being able to access and participate in courses and programs and use of the facilities and services. Class ratios will also be considered to determine the impact on learning of all students.

Applications for enrolment by students from non-Christadelphian families are to be considered on an individual basis. Considerations would include the relationship of the family to the Christadelphian community, previous schooling record, and the commitment of the family to supporting the College's ethos. These are factors which may contribute to the acceptance of the enrolment application.

Priority will be given to children of Christadelphian families if vacancies become available in classes.

#### Class sizes

Class numbers are to be at a level that promotes sound teaching practices and permits a safe, practicable working environment.

## **Fees**

The fee structure for both Christadelphians and non-Christadelphians is to be determined annually by the College Board. The Board may reduce the fees for Christadelphian families to reflect the financial support by the Christadelphian community. The fees are to be advertised before the end of a year where possible.

## **Adjustments**

An adjustment is a measure or action that identifies the type and level of support required by any enrolled student to allow them to access and participate in all aspects of College life.

An adjustment is reasonable if it balances the interests of all parties affected. Issues which are relevant to the adjustment process include:

- a) The impact on the student's access to educational opportunities;
- b) The views of the student and their family (this includes caregivers);
- c) The effect of the proposed adjustment on the student's:
  - ability to achieve learning outcomes;
  - ability to participate in the curriculum; and
  - independence;
- d) The effect of the proposed adjustment on others including students and staff;
- e) The costs and benefits of making the adjustment.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

### **Publicity**

Publicity of the enrolment procedure will be through the College website, promotional material, Christadelphian publications and College newsletters.

### **Enrolment**

Enrolment enquiries are to be recorded in order of receipt.

Records and reports relating to an application may be requested by the College from previous schools, specialists or other sources to gain information on the child's needs. The permission of the caregiver will be gained prior to the request, and the College will abide by its Privacy Policy and the Privacy Act throughout the enrolment process.

Selection of students will be on the basis of spaces available in the relevant year or class.

Enrolment applications from students seeking placement in classes that are already at their maximum size will be accumulated until sufficient numbers make the formation of a new class viable. The decision to establish a new class will be made by the College Board, following a recommendation from the College Principal.

Information that the caregiver may be required to provide as part of an enrolment application may include:

- Previous school or preschool reports, noting current achievements and areas of need;

- A psychologist’s report documenting functional skills and recommended strategies for working with the student;
- A speech pathologist’s report documenting receptive and expressive language skills and any recommendations for programs or technology in the classroom;
- Occupational and physiotherapy reports documenting self-help skills and mobility, including assistive technology reports recommending equipment and access audits regarding access to premises;
- Medical specialist reports identifying issues which need to be considered by the College;
- Vision and hearing reports documenting level of functioning and recommended strategies.
- Financial information i.e. income bracket and financial status

In considering an enrolment application, the College will:

- invite relevant parties to visit the College to discuss the needs of the student, relevant issues and participate in potential adjustments to address these;
- assess, with contributions by relevant parties, the College’s physical environment to identify issues and potential solutions;
- seek feedback and suggestions from relevant College staff and other external special educators about the possible impact of the adjustments required by the College if the student was enrolled;
- seek information about potential government funding assistance and access to other services;
- contact the Association of Independent Schools of NSW (AIS) about funding application requirements;
- keep the applicant’s nominated caregiver informed as to the progress of the application;
- prior to acceptance of enrolment, communicate clearly any strategies necessary to meet the student’s needs;
- provide professional development for staff to permit positive educational, social and psychological outcomes and the elimination of any discriminatory actions or language;
- provide a member of staff to monitor the ongoing enrolment of any student requiring enrolment adjustment, and report on this to the College Principal.

Refusal or postponement of enrolment will be made where, in the College Principal’s estimation, either the College did not have the capacity to address the student’s individual needs or that the student’s enrolment is considered, after the consultative process, to be an unjustifiable hardship (see Adjustments). The College Principal will meet with the applicant’s nominated caregiver, along with specialist and AIS involvement if required to inform them of this decision. This determination would be made only after identifying and investigating reasonable adjustments that would be required to facilitate the student’s access to and participation in the educational opportunities afforded to all students at the College, as well as an analysis for the initial years of the student’s schooling and their potential needs in future years. Consideration of the impact of the student’s enrolment on other students currently enrolled in the class would also be part of the decision process, which will involve the

College, nominated caregiver and relevant experts working collaboratively to jointly seek solutions that are most likely to produce positive results for all parties. Records will be kept of the process and related decisions.

Following an unfavourable enrolment decision the nominated caregiver is able to make representation using the College's complaint procedures.

### **Class sizes**

Class numbers are limited to the following maximum numbers:

- K to Year 2 - 24 students if composite to a max of 22 per straight class
- Years 3 to 6 - 30 students if composite to a max of 24 per straight class
- Years 7 to 10 - 28 students
- Year 11 to 12 - 28 students

Changes to these class sizes must receive Board approval.

Class maximums in composite classes would take note of the Year of the majority of the children in the composite class and set the class numbers accordingly.

The enrolment of students requiring an adjustment is considered on an individual case basis (see Adjustments). The student's impact on teacher time, facilities, utilisation of resources and specialist staffing may require an adjustment to the class sizes from those set in this Policy.

Enrolment of non-Christadelphian children is to be at the discretion of the College Principal.

Caregivers and the applicant are to be interviewed by the College Principal or appointed officer to outline the ethos of the College and to ascertain their ability and willingness to support this ethos. The College Principal will seek a further interview to be conducted by representatives of the Board for those students seeking to enrol in Year 8 or above, and for students seeking to enrol in lower Years in some instances.

Applicants are placed on the waiting list in order, at the discretion of the College Principal.

Caregivers of non-Christadelphian children are to be made aware of the close relationships and level of co-operation between those within the Christadelphian Community.

### **Adjustments**

The adjustment determination is made upon the basis of what is a reasonable adjustment after input from all parties including the student, nominated caregiver, relevant specialists, and relevant College staff. Advice may also be sought from other external sources including special education professionals.

Where the College agrees to enrolment adjustment, a practical collaborative process will be established and agreed to between the College and the student's nominated caregiver to evaluate and manage any reasonable adjustments that may arise in the future to achieve mutually agreed outcomes. The College will also establish a review mechanism to deal with any issues or disputes that may occur between the nominated caregiver and the College about decisions made in relation to the enrolment adjustment.

## **PAYMENTS**

The College will require payment of:

- a) A non-refundable Enrolment Fee; and
- b) College tuition fees.

## **CONTRACT TERMS**

The non-refundable Enrolment fee as set by the Board;

Enrolment is not finalised until the necessary documentation is received by an officer of the College and arrangements made to pay the College fees;

The College will invoice caregivers for the year and full payment is expected for each term by the last day of that term.

Caregivers are required to immediately contact the College Principal if they are unable to pay the agreed fee by the due date.