



## SECONDARY COLLEGES ENROLMENT PRIORITY

Enrolments in systemic Catholic secondary colleges are made in accordance with the following criteria:

- 1 Baptised Catholic children of regularly worshipping Catholic families with strong demonstrable links to the local designated feeder parish or parishes.
- 2 Siblings of children already attending the college whose families have demonstrated ongoing support for the ethos and values of the Catholic Church.
- 3 Children of families currently enrolled at the designated Catholic feeder schools who have demonstrated ongoing support for the ethos and values of the Catholic Church.
- 4 Children of families who have 'special pastoral circumstances' as assessed by the Enrolment Committee or, where appropriate, the school principal and/or priests of the associated parishes in conjunction with the principal.
- 5 Children of Catholic families not covered above or who are outside the local designated Catholic feeder schools/parishes.
- 6 Children of regularly worshipping Orthodox families who have strong demonstrable links to their faith community and who are prepared to support the ethos and values of the Catholic Church.
- 7 Children of regularly worshipping families from other Christian denominations who have strong demonstrable links to their faith community and who are prepared to support the ethos and values of the Catholic Church.
- 8 Children of Orthodox families who are prepared to support the ethos and values of the Catholic Church.
- 9 Children of families from other Christian denominations who are prepared to support the ethos and values of the Catholic Church.
- 10 Children of families from other faith traditions or non-religious backgrounds who are prepared to support the ethos and values of the Catholic Church.

Sydney Catholic schools strive to respond to the needs of all students, within the constraints of the available teaching and material resources. They recognise the entitlement of all students to access educational opportunities that nurture the Catholic faith, expand life choices, cater for the disadvantaged, and challenge all students to reach their full potential.

This brochure contains a summary of the Enrolment Policy for systemic Catholic Schools, Archdiocese of Sydney. The full policy document is available on the Sydney Catholic Schools website.

# ENROLMENT POLICY

*for systemic Catholic schools  
in the Archdiocese of Sydney*



Sydney Catholic Schools



Sydney Catholic Schools

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Many families are continuing the tradition of looking to Catholic schools for the education of their children. Sydney Catholic schools have seen a steady growth in enrolments and in many schools, demand exceeds the number of available places. The student population broadly reflects the diversity of Australian life and culture, with a significant enrolment of students from non-English speaking backgrounds, from indigenous cultures, with exceptional ability, and with disability and additional needs.

There are 170 Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Sydney, and most of these belong to the system of schools administered by Sydney Catholic Schools and are covered by this policy. The other Catholic schools in the Archdiocese are Congregational schools run independently by religious congregations and these schools develop their own enrolment policies and procedures not covered by this policy.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The guiding principles of this Enrolment Policy give direction for the school principal and Enrolment Committee in determining the processes and procedures for an individual school when considering enrolment of students. They serve as a basis to assess specific circumstances within the school context where demand exceeds the number of available places.

- 1 Embedded within the parish community, Sydney Catholic schools are committed to the development of the whole person and share with the parish in the evangelising mission of the Church.
- 2 Sydney Catholic schools, as part of a parish community, have a responsibility to support parents/caregivers in honouring the commitment to practise their faith, which they undertook on behalf of their child/ren at the time of baptism.
- 3 The parish priest has responsibility under Canon Law for Catholic schools and the pastoral care of all involved in the school community. Therefore the implementation of the enrolment policy requires close collaboration between the parish priest and the school.
- 4 The nature of systemic education facilitates information sharing, resource efficiency and the development of comprehensive programs to support the spiritual, academic and social development of all our students.
- 5 On enrolment, all parents and students commit to supporting the Catholic ethos of the school, participating in the Religious Education program and in the prayer and liturgical life of the school.
- 6 The support and nurturing of the family unit is fundamental to the pastoral and spiritual welfare of each child. Wherever feasible, once a family member has been accepted into a Sydney Catholic school, priority in enrolment will be given to their siblings.

- 7 The preferential option for the poor and marginalised is fundamental in Catholic schools. Sydney Catholic schools have a responsibility to care for those who are poor, disadvantaged or considered most at risk. No Catholic child will be denied a Catholic education because of a family's genuine inability to pay fees.
- 8 Sydney Catholic schools are committed to the inclusion of children with disability and will observe all relevant State and Federal legislation. Planning for the enrolment of students with disability and additional needs must take into account the school's capacity to provide reasonable adjustments. Students' educational and wellbeing needs are of paramount consideration within the enrolment process.
- 9 Planning and provision for the educational and wellbeing needs of the student is dependant on full and frank disclosure both at the point of enrolment and throughout the course of a student's education.
- 10 Sydney Catholic schools have adopted an explicit policy of providing educational opportunities for Indigenous students through the provision of a bursary program. Indigenous families may apply for enrolment on the basis of 'special pastoral circumstances'.
- 11 Wherever feasible, students who attend a Sydney Catholic primary school should have the opportunity to continue their education in a secondary college within the Catholic system where facilities exist to do so and where the family has supported the ethos of the Catholic Church.
- 12 Sydney Catholic schools are open to all Catholic families, as well as to families from Orthodox churches, families from other Christian churches, and those from other faith traditions or non-religious backgrounds who are prepared to support the ethos, values and liturgical and sacramental practices of the Catholic Church.
- 13 Sydney Catholic schools have a co-responsibility to ensure a sustainable level of enrolments for each school within the Archdiocesan system, so as to maximise the opportunity for Catholic families to access Catholic schools.

## PRIMARY SCHOOLS ENROLMENT PRIORITY

Enrolments in systemic Catholic primary schools are made in accordance with the following criteria:

- 1 Baptised Catholic children of regularly worshipping Catholic families with strong demonstrable links to the local designated Catholic parish or parishes.
- 2 Siblings of children already attending the school whose families have demonstrated ongoing support for the ethos and values of the Catholic Church.
- 3 Children of families who have 'special pastoral circumstances' as assessed by the Enrolment Committee or, where appropriate, the school principal and/or the parish priest in conjunction with the principal.
- 4 Children of Catholic families not covered above, or who are outside the local designated Catholic parish.
- 5 Children of regularly worshipping Orthodox families who have strong demonstrable links to their faith community and who are prepared to support the ethos and values of the Catholic Church.
- 6 Children of regularly worshipping families from other Christian denominations who have strong demonstrable links to their faith community and who are prepared to support the ethos and values of the Catholic Church.
- 7 Children of Orthodox families who are prepared to support the ethos and values of the Catholic Church.
- 8 Children of families from other Christian denominations who are prepared to support the ethos and values of the Catholic Church.
- 9 Children of families from other faith traditions or non-religious backgrounds who are prepared to support the ethos and values of the Catholic Church.

