



Mt St Patrick College

ENROLMENT POLICY

“The Catholic School is the principle educational arm of Catholic families, parishes and the wider church... It is there to assist parents and parishes in their educational, evangelical and catechetical mission as well as to help the wider community in its educational and civic service” (Catholic School at a Crossroads Pastoral Letter of the Bishops of NSW and the ACT, 2007).

RATIONALE

Parish schools were established as places of educational excellence and places that transmit the faith, in the mission entrusted to the Church by our Lord Jesus Christ. They form part of a tradition of Catholic education provided by religious and lay teachers in the Diocese of Lismore for 150 years. They also fulfil parents’ rights to choose the schooling for their children which reflects their own faith, values, beliefs and hopes.

Catholic schools have a particular responsibility to provide a Catholic religious education to children baptised in the Catholic faith and to support parents in honouring the commitments that they made on behalf of their children at baptism.

The Catholic school is also “open to all who want to share its educational and faith goals inspired by Christian principles” (Congregatio de Institutione Catholica 2009). Most importantly, there is a special place in parish schools for those with the greatest need, especially in areas of lesser educational options or lower socio economic circumstances, and efforts should be made to encourage such enrolments, within the vision of the Bishop of Lismore for the poor.

AIMS

Education in the Diocese of Lismore commits to the following aims:

- Supporting the living and transmission of the Catholic faith at all levels of parish school life with enthusiasm and a sense of vocation.
- Nurturing each individual student's growth in faith and unique potential and gifts. This occurs to enable a 'fullness of life' through Jesus Christ and his teaching (John 10:10).
- Offering excellence in educational opportunities founded on the mission of Jesus Christ articulated in *Catholic Education in the Diocese of Lismore: Foundational Values for Catholic Identity and Mission*.
- Fostering strong parent partnerships and engagement.
- Creating Christ centred and pastorally caring communities who respect and nurture each other, the wider society and the world, according to the teaching of Jesus.

In such aims parish schools value 'who we are and what we do': parents are invited to enrol in the parish school in full knowledge of the expectations around the Catholic Faith and the teachings, beliefs and practices of the Catholic Church. In essence, the parish remains at the 'centre' of parish school.

2. ENROLMENT PRIORITY IN POLICY

- 2.1 The Principal has a responsibility to ensure that the Catholic identity of the school is maintained and promoted so that parish schools can give priority in enrolment to students who are baptised Catholics. Schools may also enrol students from other faith traditions whose families demonstrate that they share in the foundational values of the parish school. Principals will inform Parish Priests of accurate enrolment numbers of Catholics present in the school throughout the year.
- 2.2 The following priorities for parish schools are recommended in policy:
- I. **Catholic students from Catholic Parish feeder schools.**
 - II. **Catholic students from local public schools.**
 - III. **Non-Catholic siblings from Catholic Parish feeder schools.**
 - IV. **Non-Catholic students from Catholic Parish feeder schools.**
 - V. **Non-Catholic siblings from local public schools.**
 - VI. **Non-Catholic students from local public schools.**
- 2.3 Consideration will be made for Catholic students transferring from other states.

Note

Siblings of children already enrolled in the school are considered by the same criteria above. However, within each of these categories, a sibling of a child already enrolled will have preference over an applicant who does not have a sibling enrolled in the school.

The above criteria is subsequent to the Principal's discretion.