

ENROLMENT POLICY

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Parents are the first educators of their children and have the right and obligation to ensure an adequate education for their children consistent with their beliefs and values. As Catholic parents one of these obligations is to give the child the opportunity to be educated as a Catholic.

“Catholic education is based on an educational philosophy in which faith, culture and life are brought into harmony. ...Of its nature, the Catholic school guides men and women to achieve human and Christian perfection and helps them to become mature in their faith.”ⁱ

“Achieving the educational aims of the school should be an equal priority for teachers, students and families alike, each according to his/her role, always in the spirit of freedom and love.”ⁱⁱ

“We offer an inclusive and relevant curriculum to facilitate the growth of each individual, so that they may learn the skills of co-operation, negotiation, resourcefulness and independent thinking.”ⁱⁱⁱ

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- Priority of access to Catholic Schools is given to Catholic students. Siblings of currently enrolled students are given priority each year.
- At St Stephen's we also accept students who are of an Orthodox or other Christian religion. Families of no religious denomination will also be considered if there are positions available in the school. The families of these students must be aware of the Catholic nature and ethos of St Stephen's and undertakes that the nature, life and identity of the Catholic school will be respected.

- The normal requirement for enrolment in St. Stephen's Primary School is that the student is a resident of the Parish.
- There may be special consideration given to those outside the parish area and consultation with the Parish Priest would then be required.
- The ability of parents to pay school fees should not be used as a criterion for enrolling a **Catholic** student at St. Stephen's.
- Academic criteria will not be used to exclude Catholic students from St. Stephen's.
- The number of students in each class level is also a criterion for enrolment.

INTEGRATION AND SPECIAL NEEDS

We welcome those students with special needs and disabilities into the school community and do our best to provide appropriate personnel and resources to help these children reach their full potential. Meetings will be arranged to determine the needs of the child and whether the school can adequately meet these needs. We strongly believe that the integration of these children benefits not only the integrated child but also the school community as a whole. We believe that no student should be denied enrolment on the basis of an existing disability unless the school cannot provide the services or facilities required. When considering the enrolment we must consider the whole school community. An Integration Support Group (I.S.G.) will be formed comprising Principal, Class Teacher, Integration Aide and Parent and will meet regularly to discuss the student's progress and needs.

PROCEDURES FOR ENROLMENT

- Enrolments for a coming year open from the 1st May.
- School Tours are offered over a two week period with other tours available by appointment.
- Enrolment Forms must be completed and returned with a \$50 deposit by the end of June.
- Birth, Baptism (if applicable) and Immunization Certificates are to be presented with the Enrolment Form.
- Parents will be contacted for an interview with the Parish Priest and Principal.
- A letter of acceptance or non-acceptance will be sent.
- An Information Evening is held in early November.
- Three Orientation Sessions are held in late November and early December.

ⁱ Religious Dimension in a Catholic School: Guidelines for Reflection and Renewal: Congregation for Catholic Education: Rome, 1988, Par.34.

ⁱⁱ Ibid., par 6.

ⁱⁱⁱ Vision Statement 1999.