



ST. JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Policy Document



Anti-Discrimination Policy 2020

COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

All students enrolled, and any child visiting, have a right to feel safe and be safe all of the time. The wellbeing of children in our care will always be our first priority and we have zero tolerance for child abuse.

At St Joseph's Primary School we strive to maintain a child safe and child friendly environment where children feel safe and are free to enjoy life to the full without any concern for their safety. We are committed to continually reviewing our Child Safe policies and practices to ensure that every effort is made for ongoing improvement of our Child Safe environment. We at St Joseph's Primary School recognise that some groups of children are particularly vulnerable and we are committed to promoting the cultural safety of Aboriginal/linguistically diverse children and also promoting the safety of children with a disability.

DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION

Disability Discrimination Disability discrimination occurs when a person with a disability is treated less favourably than a person without a disability, in the same or similar circumstances.

The definition of disability includes a wide range of impairments including physical, intellectual, psychiatric, sensory, neurological and learning disabilities. It also covers discrimination against a person because of a physical disfigurement or a disease (e.g. Human Immunodeficiency Virus – HIV).

ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL'S POLICY

St Joseph's is committed to providing a safe and educationally supportive environment that values and encourages participation by all students and workers, including those with disabilities.

It is our policy that:

- Students with disabilities can participate in education and training without discrimination
- Students with disabilities have opportunities to access the School curriculum and achieve educational outcomes, in the same manner as students without disabilities
- Reasonable adjustments will be made where necessary, to ensure students with disabilities are able to participate in all activities available to students without disabilities
- Individualised programs will be developed for students with disabilities in consultation with parents/carers and relevant experts
- All processes are accessible and transparent
- Disability discrimination prevention strategies are reviewed on an annual basis against best practice.

DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND VICTIMISATION

St Joseph's Primary School does not tolerate discrimination, harassment and victimisation of any type including disability discrimination.

This is achieved by:

- Informing all staff and students that disability discrimination is not acceptable
- Providing information and training concerning non-discriminatory methods of teaching
- Ensuring staff and students are aware of appropriate actions to be taken if harassment or victimisation occurs
- Establishing strategies and programs to prevent harassment and victimisation of persons with a disability
- Ensuring strategies and programs extend to not only students but also to their parents/carers, who may experience discrimination as a result of their support role to a person with a disability, or who may have a disability themselves.

'SAME BASIS' OPPORTUNITIES

The fundamental concept in operation at St Joseph's Primary School is to prevent disability discrimination is the 'same basis' concept. This means treatment of students with a disability must be on the 'same basis' as students without a disability, when presented with opportunities and choices offered to students without disabilities.

REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS

St Joseph's Primary School will provide reasonable adjustments upon consultation with the prospective student with a disability and their parents/carers to assist the student undertake education offered.

Whether an adjustment is reasonable will depend on balancing the student's learning needs with the interests of all parties affected, including those of the student with a disability, the School, staff and other students. Depending on the needs of the student, adjustments may include modifications to School facilities, procedures and resources.

Modifications to enable student access to School facilities and participate in everyday school life include adjustments to toilets, ramps, safety railings, class rooms and educational buildings to ensure students with disabilities can access these facilities safely.

St Joseph's Primary School is not required to provide adjustments where doing so would cause unjustifiable hardship to the School.

All processes for adjustments within the School, including review and grievance procedures, will be transparent. All decisions will be made in a timely way that optimises the student's participation in education and training.

Unjustifiable hardship is determined via an individual assessment of the prospective student's needs balanced with the costs associated with additional staffing, the provision of special resources or modifications and health and safety and duty of care requirements.

DISABILITY INFORMATION

Policy No.:
Policy Name: Anti-Discrimination Policy

Date Ratified: July 2020
Date for Review: July 2023

ST. JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL – Policy No:

Information obtained in relation to the student's disability will remain confidential and will only be disclosed for the purposes of making adjustments or in accordance with a lawful requirement.

COMPLAINTS

Complaints of unlawful discrimination should be made to the School. Complaints will be properly and effectively dealt with using the School's complaint procedures, including conciliation in the first instance.

STAFF RESPONSIBILITY

All staff must follow the guidelines set out in this Policy.

IMPLEMENTATION

This policy is implemented through a combination of:

- Staff training to equip staff with knowledge, skills and understanding to enable students with disabilities to participate in the full range of educational programmes or services, on the same basis and to the same extent as students without disabilities
- student and parent/carer education and information
- effective management of the enrolment and accommodation of students with disabilities
- the development of an 'anti-discriminatory' culture within the School community
- the development of a culture that maintains the disabled student's dignity and privacy
- the establishment of processes for ongoing evaluation, monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the management of students with disabilities
- effective communication and incident notification procedures
- effective record keeping procedures
- initiation of corrective actions where necessary.

DOCUMENTATION

The School maintains records of all reasonable adjustments that have been made for students with a disability. These records are maintained by the Learning support team and are stored Electronically on Google Drive.

DISCIPLINE FOR BREACH OF POLICY

Where a staff member breaches this policy St Joseph's may take disciplinary action.

KEY REFERENCE

This policy has been developed having regard to the "*Disability Standards for Education 2005*".