

INTEGRATION POLICY

PURPOSE:

To ensure all children have the right and equal access to an education which allows them to develop to their maximum potential in a regular school environment and mainstream classroom environment.

GOALS:

- Integration concentrates on the positive aspects of students with impairments, disabilities and/or special needs, focusing on them first as individuals.
- Financial resources allocated through the Program for Students with a Disability will be used to support programs for the integrated students under the guidance of each child's Student Support Group (SSG).
- To provide all students with learning opportunities that caters for their individual needs.
- To ensure that those students who receive Program for Students with a Disability funding have programs tailored to meet their special requirements.
- To provide opportunities for students identified with special needs to access programs that support their individual learning needs.
- To include parents and relevant support staff / allied support professionals in the planning of student support.

IMPLEMENTATION:

- The Student Support Group (which may consist of the following: Integration Coordinator, Educational Psychologist, Speech Pathologist, Social Worker, Occupational Therapist, student advocate and parents / guardians) will liaise with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development regarding the appropriate support for all children with a disability.
- An Integration Teacher/Coordinator will assist the classroom teacher and Education Support Officer (ESO) where necessary with program planning, implementation and evaluation. Additional community or school based programs may be provided to cater for the children's special needs.
- Funding to support each student's program will be utilised in a manner that will best suit the need of the program as recommended by the Student Program Support Group in consultation with the Principal.
- All students who are funded under the Program for Students with Disabilities (PSD) are welcome at our school.
- A staff member will be assigned responsibility to coordinate the Program for Students with Disabilities at our college, including the coordination of applications for funding, the coordination of Student Support Group meetings, the development and implementation of program budgets, coordination of staff professional learning and all other issues related to students with disabilities and their respective program needs.

- The appraisal process for applications will occur at the earliest opportunity to provide the maximum potential for an application to be successful, and to ensure a smooth transition for new students into our school setting.
- The Student Support Group process will be fully explained to all parties. Advocates and Interpreters are offered to all families to assist in this process.
- Student Support Groups will be invited to meet at least twice per year and will make recommendations regarding the development and implementation of individual student programs including student achievement goals, timelines and methods of evaluation, the use of support staff and external consultants, and the use of any additional resources required. All meetings will be documented and available to all members.
- Communication with relevant consultants and support agencies will be undertaken on a needs basis, and support provided to parents/guardians/ staff to access services.
- All curriculum programs will be inclusive of all students.

EVALUATION:

- This policy to be reviewed as part of the school's two year review cycle, individually, in teams and with the community in 2017 or more often if necessary due to changes in regulations or circumstances.
- The Integration Program will be reviewed mid-year annually.