



NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME

Policy 2021

DEFINITION:

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a way of providing disability support for Australians with a disability, their families and carers. The NDIS will provide all Australians under the age of 65, who have a permanent and significant disability, with the reasonable and necessary supports they need to enjoy an ordinary life.

The NDIS will not replace the supports schools and other mainstream services provide. Reasonable adjustments that state schools make for students with disability under the Disability Standards for Education 2005 and the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 will continue regardless of a student's NDIS eligibility. Regions and schools will continue to provide support and services for students with disability such as special education programs, assistive technology, specialist and support teachers, therapists, nurses, guidance officers and teacher aides.

Schools will continue to make reasonable adjustments, including provide personal care support, for all students regardless of their NDIS eligibility. There may be some instances where there is an overlap between the supports provided by the NDIS and the support provided by schools.

RATIONALE/PURPOSE:

Baden Powell College and the Department of Education and Training (DET) support NDIS participants, their families, and carers to make the most of the benefits offered by the NDIS. We will provide general information about the NDIS or provide copies of school reports that may assist with NDIS access and planning processes.

We support students and their parents or carers in exercising a level of choice and control with their NDIS supports at school where it is safe and practical to do so.

AIMS:

- To ensure a safe and suitable premise is available when NDIS support services are visiting the school
- Providing adequate supervision of students when students are receiving therapy
- To work with the NDIS support services to ensure that we are collaboratively working towards a student's goals that may overlap into the school environment

IMPLEMENTATION:

- All NDIS support services will be required to organise and communicate visits for therapy with students one week in advance. The school will need to consider the academic programs, available spaces and other school events
- All steps listed in this policy must be completed prior to any NDIS therapy beginning in school hours
- All NDIS support services will be required to sign in at the office and provide a copy of a current Working With Children's Check
- NDIS therapists are aware of the school's policies and commitments to the Child Safe Standards. This includes visitor policy, code of conduct, supervision arrangements and internal reporting arrangements
- All NDIS support services for therapy with students must be conducted within the school day, 8:45am to 3:00pm

- The primary responsibility of schools is to deliver school programs to students. As such, the school leadership team needs to consider what impact (if any) NDIS funded therapy may have on a child's access to the curriculum as well as other students and staff

Parent / Guardian Steps:

STEP 1: Discuss the request with the school

If parent(s)/carer(s) believe there are special circumstances that require their child's NDIS funded therapy to be delivered at school, the parent(s)/carer(s) must first contact the school and ask to speak to a member of the Leadership team (or someone nominated by the principal) about the request.

STEP 2: Complete a consent form

Depending on the circumstances and the school's ability to accommodate an NDIS funded therapist on school grounds, the parent(s)/carer(s) may be asked to submit a **Parent Consent Form** and **Therapist Request Form**.

These forms are important to ensure the school has all the information required to make an informed decision.

Parent Consent Form

A **Parent Consent Form** is required to confirm the parent(s)/carer(s)' consent to both the request for a therapist and for the provision of their child's personal and health information to the school.

The following people may sign the Parent Consent Form:

- A person with parental responsibility for major long term issues as defined in the Family Law Act 1975 (Cth)
- A person authorised to make health decisions for the student under the Children Youth and Families Act 2005 (Vic)

Therapist Request Form

The **Therapist Request Form** requires the NDIS funded therapist to provide all relevant information about the request, including:

- The purpose of the proposed therapy
- The proposed dates and times that the therapy will occur
- The proposed duration and frequency of the therapy
- The proposed aims and benefits of the therapy occurring at school and in school time
- Proof of a satisfactory Working with Children Check for the therapist
- Confirmation the therapist is an NDIS registered practitioner

STEP 3: The school makes a decision

To decide whether to approve an NDIS funded therapist request, the Leadership team will use the information provided by the parents / carers and the therapist in the **Therapist Request Form** and **Parent Consent Form**.

Finalising a decision

The Leadership team will make their decision on a case by case basis. This means it is possible that some requests will be approved whereas others may not be. While the decision will be based on the individual circumstances of each request, it is important that the process for reaching a decision will be a consistent one.

If a request is granted, it is for the duration of a school term (unless otherwise specified). After this time, further request forms may be required to be resubmitted. This is to ensure that the NDIS support the student is receiving during school hours is not limiting the student's school experience and learning opportunities

Communicating the decision

Regardless of the outcome, the Leadership team will communicate to the parent / carer including the reasons for their decision. The parent is responsible for communicating this decision to the NDIS provider.

STEP 4: Practical arrangements

If the Leadership team approves the NDIS funded therapy to take place at school, we will undertake the following actions:

Meeting with the NDIS funded therapist and parent / carer

Before therapy at the school can commence, a meeting needs to take place between the parent / carer, the school and the NDIS funded therapist. This meeting can take place in person, over the phone or via WebEx. The meeting outcomes should be recorded by the school and a copy kept on the student's school file.

Any payment required for the NDIS funded therapist to attend meetings is to be funded from the child's NDIS plan.

The purpose of this meeting is to confirm operational arrangements including:

- When, how often and where the therapy will take place (physical location)
- Supervision arrangements
- Parent / carer attendance at the therapy sessions
- Notification arrangements – for instance, if the therapist has to change an appointment or a child is absent from school that day, who is responsible for notifying who
- Whether the parent / carer would like the NDIS funded therapist to attend Student Support Group meeting (SSG's)

EVALUATION:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

June 2022