



St Peter Chanel
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St Peter Chanel Catholic School Enrolment Policy

St Peter Chanel School has adopted and complies with the Tasmanian Catholic Education Commission's Enrolment Policy (2014) as stated below.

Rationale

Catholic schools support parents who seek a Catholic education for their children. The Vision and Mission Statement for Catholic Education expressly commits our schools to being authentically Catholic and to give primacy to the promotion of the Catholic faith amongst the students.

As a community of Catholic Schools, we strive to:

- *participate in the Catholic Church's mission of evangelisation;*
- *explicitly teach, live and celebrate the Word of God within a living Catholic tradition;*

(TCEC Vision and Mission Statement, 2006)

Catholic schools have been established in Australia, first and foremost, for the support of Catholic families in the faith education of their children.

The parish primary school, where younger children receive their early lessons in the faith, remains a cornerstone of the pastoral care of Australia's Catholic people. Here the community of faith hands on the timeless message of Jesus Christ to its youngest members.

(John Paul II, 1986, P126)

Catholic schools are open to all who value and share their explicit goals and acknowledge educational quality. They are places of spiritual, educational and social formation of young people. Catholic schools respond to the call of the Church to give preferential option to the poor. They strive to show special care for those in situations of material and spiritual poverty or those who experience marginalisation in any form.

Catholic schools are based on an educational philosophy in which faith, culture and life are brought into harmony "... and in which, regardless of person, gift or talent, all members feel accepted - free to risk, to grow and to embrace their God-given potential." (Boland, 2000, p. 355.)

Policy Statement

The purpose of this policy is to provide clarity of processes and procedures for parents/guardians seeking to enrol children in all catholic schools operating in the Archdiocese of Hobart.

Scope of Application

When considering the enrolment of students into their schools, all Tasmanian Catholic school authorities will consistently apply the principles and procedures contained within this document.

Enrolment Principles

1. The Catholic school forms an integral part of the Church community and exists to further the mission of the Church. Catholic schools have been primarily established to support and nurture the faith development of baptised Catholic children.
2. Catholic schools, as part of the parish community, have a responsibility to support Catholic parents in their honouring of the commitments they made on behalf of their child at the time of Baptism.
3. In response to the Archbishop's Charter, Catholic Education Tasmania will give a high priority to encouraging Catholic families to choose a Catholic school. It is imperative for families who are not presently represented in our schools and colleges to feel welcome and to know they will not be denied a Catholic education on the grounds of economic necessity or pastoral circumstances. Every Catholic child will be provided with the opportunity to attend a Catholic school.
4. Catholic schools are committed to the inclusion of children with special needs subject to the guidelines set out in the Tasmanian Catholic Education Commission's Equity Policy (The Equity Policy is available on the Tasmanian Catholic Education Office website: www.catholic.tas.edu.au).
5. Catholic school communities should endeavour, where feasible, to 'reserve' some enrolment places for Catholic families who transfer into the parish community after the traditional enrolment periods. Waiting list policies should reflect the overall enrolment criteria and give preference to Catholic families regardless as to the timing of the application.
6. On enrolment, all parents and students will commit to supporting the Catholic ethos of the school.
7. Whilst the purpose in the establishment of Catholic schools is to educate children from Catholic families, children from all families who are prepared to support Catholic ideals, principles and practices are eligible for enrolment in Catholic schools.

8. The right and freedom of parents to choose the most appropriate education for their child is acknowledged and respected. This freedom is also governed by the availability of suitable places. Whilst every effort is made to accommodate students at the preferred Catholic school or college, this cannot be guaranteed.

9. Specific arrangements may be made for dual enrolment with another educational service provider, when this is in the best interests of the student. This will be negotiated with the Head of School Services.

10. After enrolment, the freedom to change schools within the Tasmanian Catholic schooling sector will be moderated by the co-responsibility accepted by all Catholic schools for one another. As well as considering educational, financial and moral issues this co-responsibility will require schools to consider if a student transfer will:

1. create division between schools or within the Catholic sector,
2. adversely promote a selected school or set of schools to the detriment of others.
3. allow a student to gain an advantage for enrolment in a secondary school over students who would not normally apply until the designated time.

11. Prime consideration in consultations about the transfer of students will be the pastoral and educational needs of students and their families.

12. The Catholic school forms an integral part of the Church community and exists to further the mission of the Church. In considering enrolments in a Catholic school, every person is treated with compassion and justice.

13. Wherever possible, each Catholic child should be provided with the opportunity to attend a Catholic school. On enrolment, parents and students should undertake a commitment to support the Catholic ethos of the school.

14. Whilst the purpose in the establishment of Catholic schools is to educate children from Catholic families, children from all families who are prepared to support Catholic ideals and principles are considered eligible for enrolment in Catholic schools.

15. The preferential option for the poor is fundamental in Catholic schools. Catholic schools have a responsibility to positively discriminate in favour of those who are in any way marginalised.

16. Catholic schools are committed to the inclusion of children with special needs subject to the guidelines set out in the Tasmanian Catholic Education Commission Inclusion Policy. (*The Inclusion Policy for Children and Young Persons with Special Learning Needs Enrolling in Catholic Schools in Tasmania*, available on www.ceo.hobart.catholic.edu.au)

17. Students having enrolled in a Catholic primary school should have the opportunity to extend their post-primary education within the context of the Catholic secondary schooling system.

18. Parents have the right and freedom to choose the most appropriate education for their children. This freedom is initially exercised in their choice of Catholic education rather than government or other non-government schools.

19. Catholic schools need to accept co-responsibility for the educational viability of one another. Schools need to make careful planning decisions, which have implications for accommodation, staffing, financial security and curriculum. Central to these decisions is predictability and stability in enrolments. After enrolment, the ability to change schools within the Catholic schooling system will be considered in light of the above constraints.

20. Preference for enrolment will be determined by the following overarching criteria:

- (i) Catholic children of families with demonstrable links to their parish community;
- (ii) Children who have or have had siblings in the Catholic school system;
- (iii) Children currently enrolled in a Catholic school;
- (iv) Children of former scholars of a specific school community;
- (v) Children of Catholic families who are not covered by points 1-4;
- (vi) Children of families from other religious traditions who appreciate and are prepared to support the ethos of the Catholic school community.
- (vii) Children of families who have 'special pastoral circumstances' as deemed appropriate by the Enrolment committee or equivalent authority, including humanitarian children recently arrived in Australia and children from disadvantaged families who may be unaware of the existence of accessible Catholic schools,
- (viii) Children of Orthodox families who have demonstrable links to their faith community,
- (ix) Children of families from other Christian denominations who have demonstrable links to their faith community and who appreciate and are prepared to support the ethos of the Catholic school community,
- (x) Children of families from other Christian denominations who appreciate and are prepared to support the ethos of the Catholic school community,
- (xi) Children of families from other religious traditions who appreciate and are prepared to support the ethos of the Catholic school community, and
- (xii) Children of families with no affiliation to a religious tradition who appreciate and are prepared to support the ethos of the Catholic school community. This can be evidenced through an active participation in the life of the school community.

In considering enrolments in a Catholic school every person will be treated with compassion and justice.

Basis For Discretion

It is recognised in exceptional circumstances that on occasion there will be a need for those making the enrolment decisions at the school level to have some basis for discretion in the following circumstances:

1. Children from more isolated communities that may not have had reasonable access to a Catholic parish or school;
2. Children with special pastoral or educational needs;
3. Each school community is able to develop their own enrolment policy to address local circumstances, as long as it is consistent with the TCEC overarching policy e.g. details regarding timing of enrolment, applications and criteria (6.2). **Applications for enrolment at St Peter Chanel School are accepted throughout the year. There is no cut off date for enrolments. Interviews with prospective families are conducted on application. For families enrolling for the following year, interviews will be conducted during August.**
4. Flexibility regarding starting ages may be considered in the case of interstate student transfer, where the student has already been enrolled in an equivalent grade level, noting in particular that the names for different grades may vary from state to state.
5. Specific protocols exist for the consideration of early entry into Kindergarten before the prescribed entry age. (Refer Department of Education, Tasmania, *Entry and Progress Through Early Childhood Education, Admission Policy and Guidelines*, available on:
www.education.tas.gov.au/ocll/elsupport/giftededucation/policyguide.htm)
6. Parents/guardians unable to produce any immunisation certificate or proof of immunisations will be required to complete a Statutory Declaration.

Appendix 1

Government Legislation

In accordance with the appropriate State Government legislation, the minimum commencement age for children entering Kindergarten is four years of age, on or before 1 January in the year of commencement. It is also expected therefore that prior to entry to Preparatory, a child will be five years of age on or before 1 January in the year of commencement.

Student Transfers Between Schools

Apart from the designated entry points for schools, it would be expected that Principals should confer with each other when considering applications from families seeking enrolments of students who are currently attending a Catholic school. Particular consideration would be given to the pastoral needs of the family and the potential impact on enrolment patterns across the Catholic system.

Parents need to be made aware that consultation will occur between schools with regards to transfer applications. It is recommended that parents inform the Principal of their school of origin of their intention to seek alternative placement. (Refer “*Student Transfers Between Schools: Policy and Protocol Statement*, available on: www.ceo.hobart.catholic.edu.au)

EVALUATION

These guidelines will be reviewed as part of the school’s policy review cycle.

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Approved by	
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