

PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY

RATIONALE:

The Department is committed to delivering an inclusive education system that ensures all students have access to a quality education that meets their needs.

AIMS:

- To support the inclusion of students with moderate to severe disabilities in government schools
- To provide students with disabilities access to our school, along with high quality support
- To provide all students with learning opportunities which cater for their individual needs
- To ensure that those students who qualify for funding under the Program for Students with Disabilities (PSD) have programs tailored to meet their requirements

GUIDELINES:

The PSD provides for eligible students in areas of intellectual disability, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), hearing impairment, visual impairment, physical disabilities, severe behaviour disorders and severe language disorders with critical educational needs.

After enrolment of a student with a disability, the Principal/Nominee and the parents/caregivers have the responsibility to gather the necessary documentation that establishes the eligibility of the student for priority funding/resources. For any student already receiving PSD funding who transfers to the school from another government school, the Principal/Nominee will arrange for the funding to be transferred and will continue to work with the student and family accordingly.

The provision of appropriate resources/personnel shall be a determining factor in the commencement of a student with identified disability.

Once eligibility has been established, the Principal/Nominee will be responsible for the formation of a Student Support Group (SSG), which will complete the Educational Needs Questionnaire (ENQ).

The funding for each student with a disability will be based on the information supplied in the SSG for the ENQ, along with all other documentation provided during the process.

All students on the PSD program will have an SSG. The SSG will have a key role in discussing the education needs of the student and how to best assist the student's educational development in collaboration with the Principal/Nominee.

Before a student with a disability commences at Findon Primary School, all relevant staff will be advised of the student's disability and needs.

IMPLEMENTATION:

- The Assistant Principal will be assigned responsibility to coordinate the PSD program, including the coordination of applications for funding, the coordination of SSGs, the development and implementation of program budgets, coordination of staff professional development and all other issues related to students with disabilities and their respective program needs
- The PSD process for applications will occur at the earliest opportunity to provide the maximum potential for applications to be successful (Foundation Enrolments, New Enrolments, Current Students) so their educational needs are met
- The SSG process will be fully explained to all parties
- SSGs will be established for all eligible students to facilitate curriculum planning and resource provision
- SSGs will be invited to meet at least once per term and will make recommendations to the Principal/Nominee regarding the development and implementation of individual student programs including student achievement goals, timelines and methods of evaluation
- Support staff, allied professionals, parent advocates, educational consultants and the use of any additional resources required may attend the SSG meetings

- All Individual Learning Plans will be documented and available to all attendees
- Communication with relevant consultants and support agencies will be undertaken on a needs basis
- All curriculum programs will be inclusive of all students
- All PSD funded students will have a Learner Profile which will be updated annually. These will be available to all relevant staff and casual relief teachers
- Professional development opportunities will be provided to relevant teachers to support and cater to student needs
- At the conclusion of each school year there will be a handover meeting between the current teacher, Education Support Staff member, and the future teacher regarding student transition, progress and management

EVALUATION:

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

REFERENCES:

Disability and Discrimination Act 2005

<http://www.ddaedustandards.info/>

DET Guidelines

Program for Students with Disabilities Guidelines for Schools 2017

Student Support Services Privacy Information and Consent Form

Student Support Services Teacher Questionnaire

Speech Pathology Information Form

Individual Learning Plan (ILP)

Individual Education Plan (IEP) for students out of home care

Abilities Based Learning and Educational Support (ABLES) in conjunction with The University of Melbourne, Students with Additional Needs (SWAN)

Victorian Curriculum

Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies (PATHS) Findon Primary's Social and Emotional program.