



Enrolment Policy

Reviewed: August 2020

Ratified:

Next Review: 2022

Rationale

The Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited (DOBCEL) Enrolment Policy has been developed to provide Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Schools with clear and consistent guidelines that will inform school enrolments.

All Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Schools are central to the mission and work of DOBCEL and to the life-quality of students and their families. Inspired and governed by the message and person of Jesus Christ, and committed to the physical, intellectual, social and spiritual development of each person, they provide education of the highest quality to their communities. In line with the self-understanding of the Church, they are welcoming to all who share their educational philosophy. Through their distinctive educational style, Catholic schools make an irreplaceable contribution to the intellectual, ethical and spiritual well-being of their own community and of Australian society (Awakenings, 1998).

All Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Schools “participate in the evangelising mission of the Church and is the privileged environment in which Christian education is carried out. In this way Catholic schools are at once places of evangelisation, of complete formation, of enculturation, of apprenticeship in the lively dialogue between young people of different religions and social backgrounds. The ecclesial nature of the Catholic school, therefore, is written in the very heart of its identity as a teaching institution” (The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium, 1997, n.19).

Policy Statement

Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Schools embrace the mission of the Church by welcoming the enrolment of all students and families who share their vision and educational philosophy.

- Catholic schools, strive to be authentically Catholic and faithful to the mission of the Catholic Church.
- Catholic schools is open to all who are willing to commit to support the philosophy, values and aims of Catholic schooling. While there is an invitation to all, the practicalities of being able to accommodate enrolments beyond current physical facilities may be limited by available resources.
- Catholic school has a particular responsibility to provide access to children baptised in the Catholic faith.
- Catholic schools have a responsibility for being inclusive and therefore welcome, accept and support those most in need.

- Catholic schools seek actively to engage families and carers as partners in their child's education process and the life of the school in an atmosphere of co-responsibility and co-accountability.
- In Diocesan locations where multiple Catholic schools co-exist, there will be ongoing dialogue and co-consideration of enrolment processes.

Principles

Human dignity

Our common humanity requires respect for and support of the sanctity and worth of every human life. All other rights and responsibilities flow from the concept of human dignity. This principle is deemed as the central aspect of the Church's social teaching. The belief that each life has value is shared with International Human Rights which are universal, inviolable and inalienable.¹

Participation of all members of the Church

The Catholic social teaching principle of Participation is recognising that every member of the community has a part to play. All have a responsibility to be inclusive in the church, the workplaces, the neighbourhood and in decision-making processes. Promoting participation means recognising that each has something unique and important to contribute to society. All are called on to be active members of the local and global community.²

'Each of us has a part to play, a gift to share, a service to offer, for building up the Body of Christ in love.'³

Effective participation will ensure that the talents, skills and gifts of the Holy Spirit bestowed upon ... [all] ... are utilised in the service of God and the mission of the Church. The consequence of such participation is likely to be more faithful stewardship of the mission and resources of the Church⁴

Mission

Jesus announced that he was sent by God 'to bring the good news'.⁵ Followers of Jesus share in that mission, proclaiming that in him – 'the Way the Truth and the Life'⁶ – the world will experience the saving power of God.⁷ Prior to any differentiations in the Church on the basis of particular roles and offices, the Church is the one Body of Christ, the one People of God formed by the one baptism, and serving the one mission, and sharing in the one Eucharist. Stemming from this mission is a commitment to working together as Church to bring the Gospel to all, to renew and transform the world.

¹ *ibid.*

² <https://caritas.org.nz/catholic-social-teaching/participation>.

³ Pope Francis 21/06/2013 <https://www.catholic.org/news/international/europe/story.php?id=51423>.

⁴ Implementation Advisory Group and the Governance Review Project Team, *The Light from the Southern Cross: Promoting Co-responsible governance in the Catholic Church in Australia*, A Report and Recommendations on the Governance and Management of Dioceses and Parishes in the Catholic Church in Australia, 6.1 p.56, 2020, <https://www.catholicreligious.org.au/light-from-the-southern-cross>, Accessed 02/09/2020.

⁵ Lk 4:18.

⁶ Jn 14:6.

⁷ See Apostolic Letter, *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, of His Holiness Pope John Paul II to the Bishops, Clergy and Lay Faithful at the Close of the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, ¶ 56. http://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost_letters/2001/documents/hf_jp-ii_apl_20010106_novo-millennio-ineunte.html. Accessed 23/08/2020. See also *The Light from the Southern Cross*, 3.3, p.29

Related Legislation

- *Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1992*
- *Disability Standards for Education 2005*
- *Privacy Act 1988 and Privacy Amendment (Notifiable Data Breaches) Act 2017*
- *Commission for Children and Young People Act (Vic) 2012*
- *Children Youth and Families Act (Vic) 2005*
- *Equal Opportunity Act (Vic) 1996*
- *Health Records Act (Vic) 2001*

Key Related Documents

- DOBCEL Fees and Levies Policy
- Family Fee Assistance
- Privacy Policy
- Out of Home Care Education Commitment (Partnering Agreement) 2018