



Enrolment Policy

Rationale:

The Catholic school is an educating community where the learner is given both formal and informal opportunities to grow in wisdom and faith. (Source of Life)

Vision:

We are a welcoming school community that promotes self worth and recognizes the dignity and uniqueness of each individual.

That parents, teachers and students are partners in the learning process.

Commitment to Child Safety

All students enrolled, and any child visiting, have a right to feel safe and be safe. The wellbeing of children in our care will always be our first priority and we have zero tolerance to child abuse. We aim to create a child safe and child friendly environment where children feel safe and are free to enjoy life to the full without any concern for their safety.

Children's rights to safety and participation

The staff and volunteers of Saint Monica's encourage students to express their views. We listen to their suggestions, especially on matters that directly affect them. We actively encourage all students to openly express their views and feel comfortable about giving voice to the things that are important to them.

Valuing diversity and inclusion

We value and celebrate diversity, especially cultural diversity, and we do not tolerate discriminatory practices. To achieve this we:

- promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal students and their families
- promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds (CALD) and their families
- promote the personal safety, participation and empowerment of students with a disability and make them feel welcome and part of all aspects of school life

Mission:

We are committed to:

- ♦ Fostering justice, respect for others and an acceptance of our differences.
- ♦ Developing a love of learning through acknowledging individuality and nurturing gifts and talents.
- ♦ Providing a learning environment that promotes self-esteem, confidence and resilience.
- ♦ Encouraging open communication between school and home
- ♦ Providing pastoral care and support for students, their families, and staff.

Beliefs:

We are a Catholic school community that strives to provide a Catholic Education in a caring and stimulating environment.

All Catholic children have the right to attend St Monica's dependant on sizes and numbers.

St Monica's offers a Catholic Education to all who seek it, subject to class sizes and numbers.

Aims / Goals:

St Monica's school:

- ◆ Strives to be authentically Catholic and faithful to the Church, its traditions and its teachings.
- ◆ Expects that those who choose a Catholic school do so on the understanding that they respect and agree to support the Catholic identity of the school and acknowledge the importance of religious education for their children.
- ◆ Is open to all who are willing to commit to support the philosophy, values and aims of Catholic schooling.
- ◆ Has a responsibility to welcome, accept and support those who are poor, marginalised and in most need.
- ◆ In its policy, seeks to include rather than exclude.
- ◆ Will try to ensure that the enrolment process is a welcome manifestation of the teachings and values of the Church.
- ◆ Is governed by its Canonical Administrator, the Parish Priest, in collaboration with School leadership and the School Board. The governance body is the responsible authority for our school.
- ◆ Will, as far as possible, provide facilities for potential enrolments in conjunction with the governance body and the Diocese.
- ◆ Will comply with any State or Federal laws, Catholic Education Commission or Diocesan Policies and Guidelines in relation to enrolment.
- ◆ Recognises its responsibility to provide access to children baptised in the Catholic faith.
- ◆ Will respect the traditions of other faiths.
- ◆ Will respect the responsibility – Principal, Canonical administrator, School Board and Staff – for ensuring that the authentic vision of Catholic education in the community remains the guiding principle of the enrolment policy.

Policy:

- ◆ St Monica's School is open to all who seek a Catholic Education for their children and who are willing to support the values and purposes of Catholic Education.
- ◆ No student will be refused enrolment because of a family's incapacity to pay all or part of the school fees.
- ◆ Academic, intellectual or physical capacity criteria should not be used as part of the enrolment decision making process.

- ♦ The enrolment of students with special needs should be considered in the light of the relevant laws, and the policies, guidelines and protocols of the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria and the Sandhurst School Education Board.
- ♦ Measures which are deemed to measure the degree of faith commitment of the parents will not be used as criteria for enrolling a Catholic student in a Catholic school.
- ♦ The enrolment of a student will include continuity of enrolment for all year levels provided by the school. However, school authorities have the decision to discontinue the enrolment in accordance with Diocesan or school policies dealing with such matters.
- ♦ The enrolment of students will be considered in light of class size parameters as set out in the current Industrial Award and Agreements.
- ♦ Acceptance of full fee paying overseas students for enrolment may be accommodated if places are available.

Enrolment:

Within the context of "Policy" (above) the following criteria will guide the prioritizing of enrolments.

- ♦ All children must turn five on or before April 30 in the year they commence.
- ♦ Children baptized in the Catholic faith who are members of Parish communities.
- ♦ Siblings of children baptized in the Catholic faith already enrolled.
- ♦ Siblings of other children already enrolled.
- ♦ Children of other Christian Churches who, with their parents, respect and agree to support the Catholic mission of the School.
- ♦ Children of other faiths who, with their parents, respect and agree to support the Catholic mission of the school.

Implementation:

Expressions of interest will be called for early Term 2.

Parents and children will be interviewed by the Principal or Principal's nominee prior to the acceptance of the enrolment application. Copies of the applicants Baptismal Certificate, if applicable, and School Entry Immunisation Certificate will need to be obtained.

Successful applicants will be notified before end of Term 2.

Prospective students will be invited to participate in various orientation activities in Term 4.

Prospective students with disabilities will be treated in accordance with the Standards for Enrolment Section 4 Disability Standards for Education 2005.

Enrolments will be considered throughout the year.