

Enrolment Policy

Rationale

Catholic schools recognise the role of the parents as the primary educators of their children. Catholic schools share the responsibility of nurturing the development of each student with the parish and parents. We therefore provide an authentic experience of Catholic community and we are open to all who support our values. Our beliefs and values, the foundation for our decisions and actions, determine our identity. Our Catholic identity is our reason for existing.

Values and belief statements

- We value and believe in **Christian Living** to nurture the value of tolerance and develop Catholic faith and tradition through education by encouraging a loving relationship with God and respect for ourselves and others.
- We value and believe in **Learning** to encourage individuals to reach their full potential in key learning areas and to pursue excellence through curriculum support programs.
- We value and believe in **Safety** to ensure all students and staff feel safe at all times by providing a school environment that is safe and without risks.
- We value and believe in **Community** to develop a sense of community through the interaction of staff, students, parents and parishioners to foster friendship, co-operation and support.
- We value and believe in **Social Justice** to ensure equity and justice for all in our school community.

Consequences

- Our catholic identity is spelled out in our belief statements. It is demonstrated and practiced in our liturgies, celebrations, rituals and icons. It is lived out in our actions and our modelled behaviours and personal expressions of our faith.
- While priority is given to baptised Catholics, we are open to all faith traditions.
- We promote a close link to the Parish and St Columban's communities.
- Religion programs are grounded in the Catholic Faith Tradition.
- We are an inclusive community and have enrolment support procedures and processes in place to ensure that **marginalised and disadvantaged catholic families** have access to our community.
- Prep enrolment interviews are conducted in April each year. Placement offers will be posted in the first week in June of the year prior to the year of commencement.
- All other grade level applications require completed documentation, including reports and previous school reference. When all documentation is submitted and the enrolment application fee paid, the enrolment application is entered in our systems and an interview is arranged if a vacancy exists. Applicants can be advised prior to submitting an application that a waiting list scenario is the likely outcome due to the year level being oversubscribed, however they are not on the waiting list until all documentation and the application fee are entered into the system.

AGE

Children must be four (4) years of age by the last day of June the year before commencing prep.

ORIENTATION OF CHILDREN

Orientation for Prep the following year takes place in November. This is an opportunity for the Leadership Team to welcome all parents and children, to discuss general policy and practice, tour the school and for parents to meet one another and members of the Parents and Friends Association.

Enrolment Criteria

Applicants should understand that classes are capped at recommended class sizes according to BCEO guidelines. There is high demand for places at St Peter's and we are limited by factors including classrooms, play area and class sizes. Current demographics indicate that demand for our services will place us under increased pressure both in terms of limited space and increased applications. In determining a family's suitability and to help with prioritising placement in this high demand context, we apply ten criteria to assist with allocation of placements.

These ten criteria will be used to assess each application. All ten criteria are seen as important, however applicants do not need to meet all of them. Placements are offered depending on the number of criteria met. These criteria will assist us in determining who should be enrolled and will provide us with a process for prioritising placements. It is strongly advised that applicants read the parent handbook to familiarise themselves with: school history; mission; beliefs and values; Expectations in regard to participation; behaviour management; and educational programs of the school that are all clearly outlined in the handbook.

- The parents of the applicant appreciate the Catholic identity of St Peter's School and can articulate what they expect from a Catholic education.
- The parents of the applicant have a clear understanding and acceptance of school expectations in the areas relating to: Respect for each other and for staff; Behaviour management procedures; uniform expectations ; Personal grooming expectations
- The parents of the applicant will ensure their child's participation in all compulsory extra curricular programs as directed by the school - such as: excursions, interschool sport, concerts, camps etc.
- The parents of the applicant will support the religious programs of the school.
- The parents of the applicant regularly participate in the sacramental life of the Church tradition.
- The applicant is baptised catholic at least two years prior to enrolment.
- The applicant's parents understand and accept the educational partnership of the home and school and that adversarial relationships are discouraged. They can articulate how this working together might work and can accept that the school and staff are to be treated and spoken about in a respectful manner in the presence of children.
- The enrolling parents commit to promptly paying all school fees and levies and / or will contact the school and cooperate with the school if financial difficulties arise.
- The parents of the applicant are willing to be involved in the community life of the school or parish. (For example- attendance at working bees, classroom assistance, tuck-shop assistance, P&F involvement, excursion supervision, liturgies etc.)
- The applicant has a sibling already attending the school/the parent is a past pupil of the school.