



## STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY POLICY

*"The School's policies which are made from time to time are made pursuant to the requirements set out in section 47 of the Education Act and of the Board of Studies for registration for the school."*

### **Purpose -**

To provide support and assistance to students having difficulties accessing the curriculum due to disabilities, disorders and/or syndromes.

### **Definition -**

Students with special needs, for the purposes of this policy, include: students with mental health problems [eg depression]; students with medical health issues [eg autism, Aspergers, dysgraphia, dyslexia], information processing difficulties, language disorders, sensory impairments and students living in difficult circumstances. It also includes students with a disability, including physical, intellectual, psychiatric, sensory, neurological and learning disabilities.

### **Rationale -**

- Some students have special needs as a result of disabilities, disorders, syndromes, circumstances at SBHS
- These students will require support and assistance to realise their potential
- Staff, students and family need to be aware of strategies to identify and respond on an individual needs basis
- Meet Department requirements

### **Aims -**

- To improve the learning environment and learning outcomes for students with special needs
- To implement and maintain a whole school approach to address the specific needs of students with disabilities, disorders, syndromes
- To implement and maintain an active and confidential Register of Students with Special Needs.
- To advise at the beginning of every school year of students with special needs that they will be teaching
- To empower students to be proactive in problem solving associated with problems they may encounter such as bullying
- To heighten awareness at a whole school level
- To provide skills and strategies and a support network to enhance learning, social and emotional outcomes for students with special needs.
- To establish a mentoring program with the aim of establishing a long term support person for a student with special needs.



### **Outcomes -**

- Identify the needs of our students and develop strategies to meet these specific needs
- All students with special needs need to have strategies to deal with Issues related to their specific requirements which will be monitored by a Teacher's Aide, Teacher and Headmaster and assisted by external agencies [parents, medical professionals etc] where necessary
- Teachers to recognise that all students require ongoing, individual assistance
- To improve home and school liaison
- In accordance with new measures all students who require some form of intervention must be placed on the Students With Disability Register, and a folder for record keeping will be created by the office for your record keeping.

### **Staff program -**

- Relevant training be made available to all teachers of students with special needs to improve learning outcomes
- Staff to be active in reporting potential learning difficulties in students
- Teachers to be active in implementing individual learning programs for Students with special needs
- Teachers to report/advise positive and negative outcomes to Principal for early intervention, monitoring and/or change of direction
- Teachers help formulate and support the individual student with special needs learning program.
- Teachers and Principal will maintain regular contact with parents and guardians and feedback to teachers as required.
- Teachers will attend crucial planning meetings

### **Procedures for Students -**

- Make it known to your Teacher if you are experiencing difficulties in learning or at home
- Understand that assistance is available if the school is aware of your needs/difficulties. Report to your Teacher and let them know the difficulties being experienced.

### **Procedures for Parents -**

- If you suspect your child is in need of assistance or has an existing/identified problem please
  - a. Contact the Year Academic Advisor or Headmaster

The school will liaise with parents on a regular basis for as long as required.



## **Admissions Policy**

We will conform to the Disability Discrimination Act 1992. We have had a number of parents of children with disabilities make preliminary visits to our school. We always welcome these parents and give them the detailed information they require, helping them decide if we can make suitable provision for their child.

Parents/guardians must provide the school with copies of latest medical, psychological, speech or occupational therapy reports. Failure to disclose special conditions or agree to a Management Plan may result in Enrolment Offer being withdrawn. Parents/Guardians will be requested to attend meetings in managing special conditions and failure to comply will place enrolment at risk.

## **School Buildings**

Consideration will be given to changing this arrangement to facilitate access for children with severely restricted mobility.

## **Future developments:**

- We will promote a positive attitude to disability to include all children in all our activities
- We will formally request parents to declare if their child has a disability
- We will maintain a register of children with disabilities and any remedial treatments as appropriate
- We will monitor the progress of these children and the provision that we make for them
- We will constantly look for further ways to improve provision and access for people with disabilities. We will attempt to overcome problems by being creative and flexible about use of our present provision as well as looking to further development within the constraints of available resources.

***The Headmaster is responsible for the updating of this policy document.***