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ADDITIONAL NEEDS POLICY

St. Agnes' Primary School



RATIONALE:

The Additional Needs Team for St. Agnes' aims to facilitate processes and strategies to cater for the needs of all students who have special needs within the school. Such needs could include physical, social, emotional, behavioural and academic concerns.

The team is a decision making body and will aim to maximise the use of school resources and key personnel to have a more coordinated and efficient structure to improve learning conditions for students and staff.

OUTCOMES:

- Quality teaching/learning programs for all students K-6
- Support and guidance for teacher to cater for diverse range of needs within any one classroom, year level or across school.
- Effective communication between school and key personnel
- Coordination of resources both human and physical.

ADDITIONAL NEEDS TEAM:

Purpose:

A school Additional Needs Team coordinates planning and decision making so that the educational needs of all students are addressed.

The Additional Needs Team focuses on:

1. Addressing the learning needs of students by ensuring that collaborative planning and programming occur.
2. Ensuring effective implementation of strategies is in place.
3. Making sure that appropriate resources are available and being utilised.
4. Monitoring, assessment and reporting strategies have been agreed upon (refer to CSO policy).

Considerations:

1. The team identifies and brings together key personnel within the school community who are most suitable to be involved in the delivery of the students learning program.
2. The Additional Needs Team considers the type and level of support, students with disabilities and learning difficulties require, to address the curriculum, social skills, personal care, safety and mobility needs.
3. While the Additional Needs Team may consider, for example, how the curriculum may need to be modified/enhanced or what management strategies will need to be put in place, it may also make recommendations and referrals for:
 - additional support from Regional Additional Needs Officer (CSO)
 - more intensive support (eg support in class or withdrawal).
 - additional access support to enhance the learning outcomes.
4. When considering the needs of individual students the Additional Needs Team will need to bring together the people who can assist in the support cycle. The support cycle is a method of planning to assist schools to meet the needs of individual students.

The key process of the support cycle are:

- appraisal of students support services.
- access to support services.
- programming for educational needs in consultation with the class teacher and Teacher Assistant.
- reappraisal of programs and services.

Core Members Of The Additional Needs Team

CORE: Additional Needs Teacher, Teacher Assistant Representative, Assistant Principal. Consultation will occur with the School Counsellor / Chaplain.

Meetings

The Teacher Assistants and Additional Needs Teacher at St Agnes' Primary School will meet every week. The Additional Needs Team will meet once a month. The Additional Needs Teacher will meet once a term with the Regional Additional Needs Officer in a collaborative group meeting involving other Additional Needs Teacher representatives from schools in the region. These meetings involve updates to policy and inservicing. Spontaneous meetings between the Additional Needs Teacher, Regional Additional Needs Officer and key personnel will be organised as the need arises according to the referral policy.

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