



# Enrolment in Catholic schools policy

## Rationale

Catholic schools, guided by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, have an important role in furthering the evangelising mission of the Church. Schools have a duty of proclaiming the Gospel as understood in the Catholic Tradition.

The Church's preferential option for the poor must be seen in the life and work of Catholic schools. The poor have a special and prior claim on the Church's care and attention. Catholic schools seek to include and welcome those who are marginalised in any way as far as possible.

The policy provides direction and guidance for schools in the formulation of inclusive enrolment procedures which are just and appropriate to local circumstances. Each school develops procedures ensuring that Catholic education is open and accessible to all who seek to share and support the Catholic ethos and Gospel values.

## Values

This policy expresses Toowoomba Catholic Schools' commitment to provide an exemplary Catholic education which is open and accessible to all students whose parents/carers seek, share and support its values. Where access to Catholic schooling is not available to all who seek it because of the number of students enrolled or potentially enrolled at a school, a family's relationship with the Catholic Church and the Church's preferential option for the poor and marginalised, shall be major considerations in deciding which families are offered places for their children in the schools of the Diocese.

## Policy statement

Catholic schools welcome all children whose parents and carers seek to participate in a Christ-centered educational community within the Catholic Tradition.

## Consequences

1. The Catholic ethos of each school will be maintained and promoted.
2. Each Catholic school through its school board processes shall be responsible for the development of its own enrolment procedures consistent with this policy. The procedures should articulate a transparent enrolment process for all enrolment applications the school receives.
3. Parents and carers applying for enrolment are to be made aware of the Catholic nature of the school and what this implies for the kind of education their children will participate in and which families will be expected to support.
4. When an application for enrolment is received on behalf of a child with special educational needs, the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Enrolment and Support Procedures – Students with Special Educational Needs will be implemented.
5. Parents and carers are to be made aware that the payment of fees and charges is expected of all those who can afford to pay but that a genuine inability to make these payments is not an obstacle to enrolment.
6. The Catholic Schools Office will have in place procedures to monitor demographic and statistical information so that the Diocese is well placed to respond with foresight and prudence to trends in the provision of Catholic schooling in the Diocese.

Most Reverend Robert McGuckin | Bishop of Toowoomba