



Student diversity in Catholic schools

Policy

Toowoomba Catholic Schools (TCS) is committed to the provision of quality inclusive education for students of all ages, characteristics and experiences, and commits to establishing policies and procedures that direct and enhance inclusive practices consistent with the Catholic ethos and the diverse needs of students.

Definition

The term 'inclusive education' is defined as the provision of a safe, supportive and disciplined learning environment responsive to the needs of all students in order for them to have access to facilities and equipment, equitable and genuine opportunities for engagement with the curriculum and ability to demonstrate progress in their learning.

Rationale

TCS has a strong commitment to social inclusion and student wellbeing, catering for students with a diverse range of personal characteristics, backgrounds and experiences. These may be attributable to physical, religious, cultural, personal health or wellbeing, intellectual, psychological, socio-economic or life experiences. This diverse range of personal characteristics, backgrounds and experiences enriches the communal life of schools.

The principles of inclusion are predicated on the intention to provide an educational environment that promotes the human dignity of each student within a supportive Christian community. The principles of inclusion recognise

- the uniqueness and the diversity of students as made in the image and likeness of God
- the need for belonging within a community
- a whole school approach to planning, curriculum development and school organisation
- access to reasonable differentiated resources and learning opportunities to facilitate the participation of students
- Catholic social teaching and practice that is informed by legislative requirements, educational philosophy and societal expectations.

Actions

- Schools will accept enrolment applications from families who agree to support the Catholic ethos in accordance with the TCSC Enrolment in Catholic schools policy and the TCS Enrolment application procedures.
- Schools will use the TCS Enrolment application procedures to help identify the student's specific needs, adjustments required, whether adjustments are reasonable and can be made without creating unjustifiable hardship for any party.
- Schools will engage in collaborative planning and decision-making processes involving relevant staff, parents, and students.
- Schools will develop relationships and service agreements with relevant agencies to support the needs of students when and where appropriate.
- Schools will provide opportunities for professional development of staff to support the participation of students with additional learning needs.
- Schools will provide flexible approaches, school structures, procedures and curriculum to facilitate options and pathways for students.

- Schools will create physical environments that are accessible, stimulating, safe and welcoming.
- Schools will support students and their families to discern appropriate educational arrangements, particularly in times of transition.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "+R. McGuckin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Robert McGuckin | Bishop of Toowoomba