



## Enrolling Students – Policy

### 1. PREAMBLE

- a) St Philip's Christian College - Dynamic Learning (the School) is a special school designed to enhance student engagement and educational outcomes for children and young individuals with a diagnosis of Anxiety, Depression, PTSD, and/or Autism (Level 1&2).

### 2. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

2.1 The School currently provides a school curriculum for students:

- a) Years 3 to 12 based on the NSW syllabuses for the Australian curriculum (or equivalent if superseded).

2.2 This policy sets out the principles and requirements for families of prospective students who are seeking to enrol a child at the School, including specifically the School's approach to inclusivity.

### 3. AIM AND KEY PRINCIPLES

3.1 Through this policy, the School aims to:

- a) Maintain an open and fair procedure for the enrolment of students seeking enrolment to the School.
- b) Ensure the procedure for enrolment to the School is fair, transparent and not unlawfully discriminatory.
- c) Explain clearly to prospective parents/guardians (referred to as parents for convenience) the School's enrolment process (from enquiry to enrolment).
- d) Ensure that the School can provide for the educational needs of all its students in a manner that reflects the School's duty of care obligations.
- e) Ensure the School maintains its core values.
- f) Ensure the School complies with its commitments to supporting students with differing and varying needs, including by making reasonable adjustments where appropriate, and providing a pastoral and learning environment that supports their known diagnoses.
- g) Promote a Christian education framework and Christian ethos, and a learning environment where students are educated and nurtured as members of a Christian community.
- h) Comply with the requirements of the Education Act 1990 (NSW) (as amended or replaced from time to time), and other relevant legislation.
- i) Ensure that procedures are in place for the management, storage and retrieval of enrolment data, including in relation to the child is identity, immunisation and visa status (for further detail, refer to clause

3.2 To assist in achieving the above aims, the School has allocated the following responsibilities:

### POSITION/ROLES

#### Board

#### Responsibilities

- Ensure the School meets its legal and regulatory responsibilities - including those which relate to inclusivity.
- Review and endorse this policy.
- Review and set the annual tuition fees on an annual basis and otherwise as required.

## Principal

### Responsibilities

- Establish and implement an enrolment policy and procedure that is open, fair and complies with all school registration and other applicable legislation.
- Final decision-maker in relation to enrolment decisions.

## Registrar

### Responsibilities

- Ensure compliance with this policy.
- Ensure enrolments are compliant with the School's Constitution.
- Provide prospective parents with the necessary information about the enrolment processes.

## Parents

### Responsibilities

- Read and comply with this policy.
- When seeking enrolment of a prospective student, complete the application for enrolment form as contained in the School's enrolment documentation (available on the School's website).
- Disclose their child's needs (including those which are diagnosed, undiagnosed and suspected), or information which may otherwise be relevant to the School providing an education to the child, the child's welfare, or the education and welfare of other students.

## 4. ENTRY POINTS

4.1 The main enrolment entry points into the School are traditionally:

- a) Year 3
- b) Year 7.
- c) Year 11

4.2 Parents may apply for a place at the School for their child and anytime, provided that their child meets the eligibility criteria and has a need for a special education placement.

4.3 Places of enrolment are offered at other levels if vacancies exist.

4.4 Parents may apply for a place at the School for their child at any time from the child's birth.

4.5 In determining the school-readiness of a child, which is assessed against the School's commitment to inclusivity, the following are examples of factors that will be considered:

- a) Separation: Is the child ready to separate from the parent for a day?
- b) Physical independence: Can the child manage their toileting, own clothes and belongings independently on a regular basis?
- c) Education: Has the child completed a primary education in another mainstream or special educational practice?
- d) Social maturity: Is the child ready to be part of a large group with approximately 16 children, one teacher and a teacher's aide. Can the child interact with other children and adults? Can the parent and the child cope with a wide cross-section of the community with different values and behaviours?
- e) Confidence: Is the child able to ask for help and assistance when required?

- f) Language: Is the child able to communicate sufficient in order to be understood (including with staff and other students during class and in the playground)?

English as an Additional Language (EAL) students must demonstrate satisfactory English skills, as determined by screening tests and any pre-enrolment interview, to ensure a prospective student will be able to meaningfully benefit from the School's education program.

## 5. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

5.1 To be eligible for enrolment, the prospective student must be either:

- a) an Australian citizen;
- b) entitled to stay in Australia, or enter and stay in Australia without limitation; or
- c) deemed eligible and approved for enrolment by the Principal as determined at their sole discretion.

5.2 All children to be enrolled in the ELC must be up to date with immunisations recommended under the Australian government's National Immunisation Program Schedule. Prior to commencement of enrolment, the School is required to obtain a copy of a child's immunisation statement as evidence that the child is up to date with their immunisations. More information about the legislation can be found online.

## 6. OPEN ENTRY POLICY

- a) The School provides special education only for students with a disability, including those who are diagnosed with, specified mental health disorders and/or Autism Spectrum Disorder Level 1 & 2 or mild intellectual disability. The School otherwise has an open entry policy. The School is committed to being inclusive, and therefore welcomes, accepts and supports those most in need.

6.1 However, the School may:

- a) Offer scholarships to specific groups of students, including for academic ability, hardship or general excellence.
- b) Determine enrolments based on its ability to provide educational services to the particular student.
- c) Apply the priorities for enrolment are set out in clause 7.8(d) of this policy.

## 7. APPLICATION PROCESS

### Get Informed

7.1 Before submitting an application for enrolment form, families of prospective students are encouraged to:

- a) Browse the School's website.
- b) Review this policy, and other policies and procedures available on the School's website, to fully understand the vision, mission and values that will frame a student's education at the School.
- c) Attend Open Days, as advertised.
- d) Book a tour of the School and receive an Information Pack and Prospectus.
- e) Submit and eligibility check request

### Submit An Application (after having received confirmation of eligibility)

7.2 An application for enrolment may be made by submitting a completed online application for enrolment form.

7.3 An application for enrolment form must be accompanied by:

- a) Any required documentation mentioned in the form (including the child's birth certificate or passport, current immunisation certificate from Medicare and if applicable, NAPLAN results, school reports, Kindergarten Transition Statements, visa grant notice, relevant court and parenting orders). Academic reports should indicate at least satisfactory results in core subjects.
- b) A non-refundable application fee is payable at the time an application for enrolment is made, to cover the School's administrative costs in managing the enrolment process.
- c) The following documentation:
  - I. recent medical evidence from a qualified medical professional confirming the student's diagnosis meeting the criteria listed at Appendix A for disability status in the areas of cognitive, mental health and/or Autism Spectrum Disorder;
  - II. a statement from a qualified medical professional confirming the need for a specialist education placement; and
  - III. where applicable, any other relevant medical assessments (completed within the past two years).

7.4 Submitting the application for enrolment form and paying the application fee, does not guarantee a place at the School.

7.5 Rather, the application process enables the School to receive information from a range of sources including the prospective student and the prospective student's parents, current school and former school(s) - which is used to assist the School in:

- a) considering whether it can meet the child's behavioural, educational and welfare needs (including with regard to the School's duty of care obligations); and
- b) deciding whether to exercise its discretion to offer a place of enrolment.

7.6 Each completed application for enrolment form and accompanying documents will be considered by the School on a case-by-case basis.

Waiting lists and priority of enrolment

7.7 The School ultimately has discretion whether to place a prospective student on the School's waiting list, offer an interview, or offer a place of enrolment.

7.8 In exercising that discretion, the School takes into account a range of criteria, including but not limited to the following:

- a) The date a fully completed application for enrolment form is received (noting incomplete applications will not be processed).
- b) The information disclosed in the application for enrolment form.
- c) The child's pre-enrolment interview and if applicable, pre-enrolment assessments.
- d) Whether the child is eligible for a priority offer of enrolment as:
  - I. set out elsewhere in this policy;
  - II. Students already enrolled in an SPCC school;
  - III. a sibling of a current student (noting that siblings will be prioritised provided an application for enrolment form is submitted within 26 months of the start of the school year they are due to commence);
  - IV. a result of their faith as a child of a family who has demonstrable links to their faith community, and/or who are prepared to support the ethos and values of Christian;
  - V. alumni, or children of alumni of the School or other St Philip's Christian College schools; or
  - VI. the child of a permanent staff member.
- e) The child's behavioural history.
- f) Whether the values and beliefs of the child's family clearly align with the vision, mission and values of the School.

- g) The starting year level of the child and whether this aligns with a main year level entry point at the School.
- h) The School's capacity, as an inclusive school, to support a prospective student's relevant needs in the School environment (see below).
- i) The merits of the application, prospective student's suitability for enrolment at the School, and individual circumstances and practical implications including the:
  - I. number of students currently enrolled at the School;
  - II. prospective student's family circumstances (including the willingness of the student and their parent to comply with the School's policies and procedures);
  - III. prospective student's interests and participation in extra-curricular activities (including religious activities);
  - IV. reasonableness of the adjustments required to facilitate the prospective student's education (including their personalised plan);
  - V. School's resources and capacity to deliver an education to the student in accordance with its educational model;
  - VI. prospective student's willingness and ability to comply with the School's behavioural standards;
  - VII. prospective student's willingness and ability to derive a benefit from the School's educational model;
  - VIII. prospective student's school-readiness;
  - IX. willingness of each family to endorse the School's vision, mission and values; and
  - X. any other considerations set out in this policy.

7.9 A number of places are kept for scholarship and bursary recipients, and also for enrolments at the Principal's discretion.

7.10 The School will apply the federal Department of Education's Priority of Access Criteria if there is a waiting list for the School's ELC or if the number of applications exceed the number of available places at the ELC.

## 8. PRE-ENROLMENT INTERVIEW

8.1 If and when appropriate, the School will invite a prospective student and their parents to attend a pre-enrolment interview with a member of the College Leadership Team.

8.2 For families seeking entry to the School, this interview will:

- a) enable the School to understand the prospective student's strengths, weaknesses, school readiness and needs, as well as what they and their family can contribute to the life of the School; and
- b) enable the prospective student and their family to better understand the School and its approach to delivering an educational curriculum model, which is underpinned by a child's personalised plan.

8.3 Prior to the interview, families will be asked to provide the School with a number of documents, including a copy of the prospective student's current school reports (if applicable) and other assessment documentation. During the interview, or shortly after it, prospective students may be required to undertake assessments or testing (including diagnostic, psychometric and behavioural assessments).

8.4 Prospective students will be interviewed, either in person or by telephone, Zoom, Microsoft Teams or other platforms as appropriate.

8.5 Attending a pre-enrolment interview does not guarantee a place at the School, and is not an offer of enrolment.

8.6 After attending the pre-enrolment interview the prospective student's application will be reviewed by the School's Enrolment Panel.

8.7 If for any reason in the School's absolute discretion the School forms the opinion, as a result of the pre-enrolment interview, that it would be inappropriate for a child to be enrolled at the School, the School may terminate the enrolment process (or if the child is already enrolled, the enrolment agreement).

8.8 During the enrolment process, students may be required to attend an observation session overseen by a member of the College Leadership Team.

## 9. OFFER OF ENROLMENT

9.1 At all times, the Principal has absolute discretion to make the final decision about whether an offer of enrolment should be made to a prospective student.

9.2 Any offer of enrolment made by the School will be made in writing.

9.3 It is not the School's practice to disclose a prospective student's place on the waiting list or provide specific feedback regarding the timing of an offer of enrolment (or, where no offer is made, the reasons for this).

9.4 An offer of enrolment may be accepted in the form approved by the School from time to time, subject to the following:

- a) An offer of enrolment will not be accepted until both parents (or where supported by a court order or otherwise agreed at the School's absolute discretion, one parent) have agreed to be bound by the School's Terms and Conditions of Enrolment and any other terms set out in the offer of enrolment (including payment of the enrolment deposit and return of requested documents by the stated deadline).
- b) Acceptance of the offer must be provided within 14 days unless the School's offer states otherwise.
- c) Acceptance of an offer must be accompanied by payment of the non-refundable enrolment deposit. A portion of the non-refundable enrolment deposit will be applied to the enrolled student's tuition fees for the first term of enrolment.
- d) An offer may be withdrawn by the School, regardless of the availability of places where:
  - I. Information provided to the School is found to be withheld, false or misleading.
  - II. There is a significant change in the circumstances of the student or their family, which impacts the School's capacity to reasonably accommodate the student.
  - III. The offer of enrolment is not accepted on the terms provided by the School,
  - IV. The Principal exercises their reasonable discretion to withdraw the offer.

9.6 Details about all the School's tuition fees and course levies, and other charges and levies, imposed by the School for that school year (collectively, the School Fees) and the terms on which School Fees must be paid are set out in the Terms and Conditions of Enrolment published by the School.

9.6 If parents accept an offer of enrolment but the child does not subsequently begin schooling at the School, the parents will forfeit the enrolment deposit fee and any tuition fees paid in advance to the School, unless one term's written notice is provided.

## 10. DEFER, REFUSE OR VARY AN OFFER OF ENROLMENT

10.1 Parents must notify the School in writing if they wish to defer, refuse or vary an offer of enrolment. This must occur by the date stated in the offer of enrolment, otherwise fees will be payable in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of Enrolment.

10.2 Parents who wish to vary the date of entry for their child's enrolment (either to another date in the same school year or to a subsequent intake year), understand that:

- a) Notice must be given to the School in accordance with clause 10.1.
- b) The School in its absolute discretion may or may not agree to that request.

- c) If the School agrees to the parents' request, the child will be placed on a waiting list for the preferred year of enrolment and the offer of enrolment issued will be terminated. The School makes no guarantee that a place will be available for the child on their preferred commencement date.
- d) Should a place be available for their child to commence enrolment at a later date of entry, parents must sign an updated copy of the School's Terms and Conditions of Enrolment and otherwise comply with the School's enrolment requirements at that time.
- e) The School may or may not in its absolute discretion require the payment of a further enrolment deposit.

## 11 APPEALING AN ENROLMENT DECISION

11.1 Parents may appeal and enrolment decision in accordance with the School's Complaints Handling Policy. A copy of the School's Complaints Handling Policy can be found on the website.

## 12 PERIOD OF ENROLMENT

12.1 Once an offer of enrolment has been made and accepted, a child's enrolment is ongoing and will remain in place until such time as:

- a) a child's enrolment is withdrawn or otherwise ends in a manner provided for in the School's Terms and Conditions of Enrolment;
- b) a child completes a Year 6 education at the School, unless the School provides written notice no later than the last day of Term 3 in Year 6 that the student's education will continue for Year 7 and beyond.

## 13. ORIENTATION

13.1 Orientation and induction takes place for all new students and their families, and includes:

- a) Orientation days.
- b) Student orientation on commencement.
- c) The use of the buddy system for those entering in non-major intake years.

## 14 THE SCHOOL'S COMMITMENT TO INCLUSIVITY

14.1 The School is an inclusive school and welcomes students and other members of the school community - including parents and staff - with a varying range of academic, behavioural, cultural, lifestyle, religious and

14.2 In this policy, a child's relevant needs include any needs which a child has (or has had) which may be relevant to the education or welfare of the child (or which may impact upon the education or welfare of others). A child's relevant needs may relate to (amongst other things) allergies, health conditions, physical or intellectual disabilities (whether diagnosed, undiagnosed or suspected), behavioural or learning challenges or difficulties, learning support requirements and needs of a medical, psychological health or dietary nature.

14.3 The School is committed to complying with its legal obligations regarding students with disabilities, supports the National Disability Standards for Education, and is an inclusive community. However, the School is not necessarily able to cater to every prospective student's relevant needs.

14.4 The School must be satisfied that it is equipped to adequately respond to a student's relevant needs, and ensure they are able to meaningfully derive from the educational program on offer. In this regard/ the process of offering enrolment is informed by the availability of places, as well as the suitability of programs and support levels in relation to a child's relevant needs (and the child's level of school-readiness, if applicable). This consideration is had both in relation to an individual child and also, broadly with regard to the School's resources and capacity to support the needs of a cohort of students.

14.5 The School also reserves the right to set and enforce reasonable standards of dress, appearance and behaviour. Whilst the School will comply with its legal obligations, the School may not be able to facilitate an enrolment in circumstances where:

- a) A child poses a threat, or presents a risk of harm to a member of the School community (including staff, students and parents).
- b) The child exhibits behaviours that significantly interfere with, or compromise with the teaching and learning experiences of others in the classroom, or social integration in the playground.
- c) The child exhibits behaviours (including violent or sexualised behaviours) that otherwise have an emotional or psychological impact on others.
- d) The child does not have, or does not effectively respond to strategies or supports recommended from qualified medical professionals, to assist the child to self-regulate and best support their positive experiences at school.

14.6 Accordingly, prior to an offer of enrolment being made parents must inform the School of all relevant needs a prospective student has.

14.7 If a parent fails to promptly inform the School of a student or prospective student's relevant needs, or any significant change in those needs, this damages the trust and confidence required for an effective enrolment relationship between the School and the family of an enrolled student. In such circumstances the School, in its absolute discretion, may refuse to make an offer of enrolment (or, if the enrolment has already commenced, immediately terminate the enrolment of the student in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of Enrolment).

14.8 Where a parent promptly informs the School about a student or prospective student's relevant needs, or any significant change in those needs, the School will act in accordance with applicable laws and its Terms and Conditions of Enrolment.

## 15 REGISTER OF ENROLMENTS

15.1 The School keeps a register of enrolments of all students who have been enrolled at the School in electronic form. The register includes the following information:

- a) Name, age, date of birth and residential address of student.
- b) Parent names and contact details.
- c) Date of enrolment.
- d) Medical information for emergency management purposes.
- e) Emergency contact details.
- f) Sacramental information.
- g) If applicable: Home care arrangements, court orders, transfer records.
- h) Date of leaving the School and details concerning student's departure, where appropriate.
- i) For students older than six years, details of previous schools or pre-enrolment situation.

15.2 The register is retained for a period (in accordance with the School's Privacy Policy after the student leaves the School, and copies of information in the register are stored on-site at regular intervals.

By signing this form, I am agreeing to the terms and conditions and privacy policy of the school (as they are stated in this document).