

EQUITY POLICY

Policy:

In responding to the diversity within our school, St Peter's Catholic Primary School seeks to provide an educational environment that is socially just, equitable and responsive to the needs of the individual according to the availability of physical, human and financial resources.

Rationale:

In living out the Mission of St Peter's Catholic Primary School community, we are called to recognise and to celebrate the uniqueness and innate dignity of each individual. Our community has a tradition of responding equitably to the educational needs of students providing the best possible outcomes for all.

We believe that the purpose of Catholic education is to provide equitable access to educational opportunities that nurture the development of the whole person, spiritually, academically, physically, emotionally and socially. Equity is defined as equal access to schooling and the fair and just distribution of the benefits from a Catholic education for all students. However, this does not imply equality of treatment. Fairness means treating people differently according to their needs.

There are many factors, which may disadvantage students in achieving educational outcomes. Therefore priority assistance or identified affirmative action may need to be directed towards students in need.

Guiding Principles:

We seek to provide a balanced education and a quality inclusive learning environment which maximises educational outcomes for all students by:

- Operating from the belief that all students can learn
- Expecting high levels of performance according to their abilities
- Adapting and changing curricula so that access, engagement and outcomes are equitable and socially just
- Identifying and eliminating barriers which reduce some students' levels of participation and achievement
- Valuing diversity, acknowledging the different characteristics and circumstances of the full range of students in the school, and catering for all the educational implications of these differences
- Understanding and countering discrimination and enabling optimal participation by all groups and individuals
- Matching individual needs with a range of service alternatives including personnel, programmes, materials and equipment
- Developing partnerships among parents, staff, students and the wider community.