



BOARDING POLICY

Rationale

St Patrick's College is a Catholic school and as such it seeks to provide places for all boys who are committed to respecting the Gospel values and the Catholic philosophy of the College as well as the College's educational values. The enrolment policy of St Patrick's College is open and inclusive. The College has a long and celebrated tradition of providing residential accommodation (Boarding), with boarding students having made a rich contribution to the life of the College and the celebrated 'St Pat's spirit'. Boarding also provides the College with an invaluable 'point of difference' from other local and regional Catholic secondary schools.

In accordance with the strategic imperatives of the 2011-2014 Strategic Plan, St Patrick's College offers residential facilities to students who wish to access a Catholic education at St Patrick's College. Residential accommodation is available to students in Years 8 to 12 and is offered to students from regional and remote communities, from overseas and for other students with special pastoral needs.

The College's 'House Model' of boarding involves boys living in purpose renovated houses, supported by two live in members of the teaching staff, as well as a resident Director of Boarding and Assistant Director of Boarding. This ensures optimal provision of pastoral care and tuition support whilst creating a 'home away from home' environment for boys. Close and regular communication with parents/guardians is also a hallmark of the College's model of Boarding.

The College offers a variety of residential options for students including full time, weekly (Sunday pm -Friday), short stay accommodation and occasional boarding.

The operation of the College's Residential facilities will be conducted at all times as a cost neutral venture to ensure that the operation of boarding is not subsidised by other cost centres within the College.

Scriptural Context

For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome. Matthew 25:35

Policy

The College shall offer residential accommodation to enable students to access a St Patrick's College education. Residential accommodation will be offered subject to demand for the service and upon the basis that boarding can be provided on a cost neutral basis to the College.

Guidelines

1. Residential Accommodation will generally be offered to students in the College's Senior School (Year 10-12). The Headmaster shall reserve the right to offer residential accommodation to students in other year levels.
2. The College offers a variety of residential options for students including:
 - Full time boarding (term time) Students will be required to vacate the boarding house for one Exeat weekend per term.
 - Weekly boarding – Sunday from 5 pm to Friday 4 pm during term time.
 - The cost of weekly boarding shall be determined annually by the College Finance Committee.
 - Short Stay Boarding – full or weekly boarding is provided subject to availability for short stay requirements. Short stay accommodation may be required for pastoral, academic or family needs (parent/guardian travel for example);
 - Occasional Boarding – subject to availability day students may stay within the College's Residential facilities to enable participation in curricular or co-curricular programmes offered by the College. The cost for Occasional Boarding will be reviewed at the start of each academic year, but should cover the cost of three meals and utility costs.
3. The College welcomes applications from Full Fee Paying Overseas Students (FFPOS) and may offer enrolment provided students and their families support the College's ethos and meet the criteria required to obtain a Certificate of Enrolment via the CRICOS (DEST) system, including attainment of English proficiency to a recognised standard. Students enrolling at St Patrick's College may be required to attend fulltime English language courses prior to a position being taken up at the College, if their standard of English is not equivalent to IELTS test scores reaching an overall band score of 5.0.
4. Overseas students will pay an annual 'Overseas Student' fee in addition to the College's tuition and boarding fees. This fee will be approximately equal to the amount of money received per capita from government sources for students who are resident of Australia, plus additional costs associated with the administration of the College's overseas student programme. This fee will be set annually by the College's Finance Committee.
5. The College will develop and publicise all procedures required to maintain Registered Schools Board Approval for hosting FFPOS, as evidenced by provision of a CRICOS Number.
6. The College is a registered provider of the Indigenous Youth Leadership Programme (IYLP) which provides funded scholarships to Indigenous scholars who are deemed capable of completing secondary education and accessing tertiary education. The College, in line with its mission as a Catholic school in the spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice, is committed to providing boarding opportunities for both IYLP scholars and

other Indigenous students who are eligible for Abstudy or other forms of financial assistance in line with the College's Fee Policy.

7. Shamrock Boarding Association – all parents or guardians of boys enrolled as full time or weekly boarding students will automatically be granted membership of the Shamrock Boarding Association. Parents/Guardians will pay an annual Shamrock Boarding fee. The amount will be determined annually by the College's Finance Committee.
8. Scholarships and Bursaries – except where funds are made available from external sources or under exceptional circumstances, and with the approval of the Headmaster, the College will not provide discounts on boarding fees. This is in line with the College's policy statement that boarding is provided to families on a cost neutral basis to the College.
9. Staffing and Supervision – the College undertakes to ensure that at all times where there are boys within the Boarding House or on the grounds of the College that there will be a staff member present.
10. Members of the College's Boarding staff will provide the best possible learning environment for students and will provide tuition to students during scheduled study periods. Members of the College's teaching staff will also be available to provide tutoring support on occasions. Intensive tutoring can be organised for students in specialist learning areas following consultation with parents but will generally be on the basis of a user pay arrangement between the family and the tutor.
11. The College in line with its Pastoral Care Policy will have in place Complaints and Grievances, and Harassment and Bullying protocols, for students living within the Boarding community.
12. Full details of the College's day to day operation of Boarding will be contained in the College's Residential Handbook that will be made available to students and parents prior to the commencement of the academic year. The Residential Handbook will detail guidelines on matters such as study times, travel arrangements, discipline, pastoral care, laundry procedures, social outings, sporting/artistic participation, reporting, staff contacts and communication with home. The Handbook will be updated each year and will also be available on the College website.

Status: Ratified by the College Board, 2013

Review: 2018