



ENROLMENT POLICY

Rationale

St Patrick's College is a day and boarding school conducted since 1893 by the Christian Brothers. In keeping with its Catholic heritage, Edmund Rice tradition and history, the Touchstones of the Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) community and inspired by the contemplative spirit of St Patrick, the College is centred on Christ's transforming vision of humanity. In this spirit St Patrick's College aims to be a welcoming and hospitable community that will provide strong witness to Gospel values.

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 took Me in;' (Matthew 25:35-40)

Policy Statement

St Patrick's College will attempt to make available places to any boy who seeks enrolment and is prepared to commit himself to respecting the Catholic ethos of the College and its educational goals. The College is committed to valuing:

- An understanding that true conversion of the heart best occurs within a community that reflects authentically in all its structures and lives, the full richness of the Gospel call to justice and peace.
- A genuine love of learning and fostering academic excellence and achievement.
- Assistance for students to achieve their potential academically, culturally, physically, socially and spiritually.
- A sense of family in the way that it sets about creating a community that extends to all a strong sense of belonging.
- The College religious rituals, liturgies and celebrations as significant event in the nurturing of faith of both the community and individuals.

In accordance with these principles St Patrick's College through its Headmaster and staff, receive young men into the College as students and members of the College community.

Guidelines

The College welcomes all applications. It needs to be noted that even though all criteria for enrolment may be met, that usually there are many more applicants than places available. Inevitably there will be applicants to whom the College will be unable to offer a place. Please note that not all applicants will receive an interview and not all families interviewed will necessarily receive an offer of a place. In these situations preference in enrolment will normally be given to students in the following order:

1. Baptised Catholics from local Parish Schools who have completed all sacraments of initiation continuing in the practice of their faith and whose families respect the spiritual and religious dimensions of the education provided at St Patrick's College.
2. Brothers of current or past students and sons of Old Collegians to St Patrick's.
3. Baptised Catholics from regional Government schools where there is no closer Catholic school to their place of residence who have completed all sacraments of initiation.
4. Baptised Catholic students from any other schools, who have completed all sacraments of initiation.
5. Non-Catholic students from Catholic schools.
6. Baptised Catholic students who have not completed their sacraments from any other schools.
7. Non-Catholic students from other schools within the Diocese of Ballarat.
8. Non-Catholic students from others schools outside the Diocese of Ballarat.
9. The Headmaster has the right to accept or refuse any applicant whether the applicant is eligible under this policy without giving reason for his decision.
10. The Headmaster has discretion to offer places to students from marginalised or disadvantaged backgrounds.

All offers are made at the discretion of the Headmaster. The Headmaster needs to be satisfied on the basis of advice, collected information and the Headmaster's judgement that there is reasonable expectation that an applicant is ready to benefit from the educational programs and structures of the College.

Enrolment Process

The Headmaster is responsible for the enrolment of students. He is assisted by the Registrar and senior staff (Deputy Headmaster's and Directors of School – Junior, Middle and Senior) who will perform the enrolment process according to College policy and under the direction of the Headmaster.

- Parents will make an initial application by completing an Application for Enrolment, signing their agreement to the conditions within. The application Fee as set must accompany the Application Form. The Application Fee is non-refundable.

- The Parents are to provide to the Registrar the following documents prior to interview:
 1. A copy of the student's Birth Certificate or Extract of Birth Certificate;
 2. A copy of the student's VISA and Passport if applicable to citizenship status;
 3. Proof of a student's Catholic Baptism and evidence of any other sacraments received;
 4. NAPLAN results;
 5. The two most recent academic reports;
 6. A letter supporting the application from the student's Parish Priest, Parish Pastoral Associate or Catholic parish School Principal;
 7. Any other formal testing results and materials which the family or College believes must be examined prior to considering a boy for a position.
 8. Any other information as requested by the Registrar.
- At the interview the nature of the College will be detailed and the financial requirements for attendance and the conditions of enrolment will be explained.

Scholarships

St Patrick's College may offer academic, music, sporting, leadership, art and performing arts scholarships based on testing or audition to worthy and eligible students. The scholarships offered will provide fee subsidies to various levels and to various aspects of College life. The provision of such scholarships shall be at the absolute discretion of the Headmaster subject to an annual review by the Deputy Headmaster's.

School Fee Assistance

No student will be excluded because of his parents' inability to pay tuition fees. Parent(s) who believe that they may be unable to pay the fees in full have an obligation to discuss this with the Headmaster when applying for enrolment if it is known at that time, and at any other time after enrolment if such a situation arises. Some level of fee alleviation is available to all genuine cases.

Status of Policy: Ratified by the College Board September, 2015

Sources:

Review: 2018