



Individual Needs Policy

RATIONALE

- In the St Albans Secondary College community we believe that each person has the right to teach and learn in a safe caring and cooperative environment in which everybody can enjoy self-respect. Individuals are responsible for their own actions and should respect the rights of others in regard to their person, space and property.
- The Individual Needs Policy acknowledges the right of students with impairments to be accepted as equals and to share in the social and educational life of regular schools.
- St Albans Secondary College supports the process of assisting students with individual needs and will endeavour to maintain the full participation of those students in danger of being segregated.
- The school's Individual Needs Policy recognises that "all children can learn and be taught" and gives the opportunity for all to learn greater tolerance and awareness of individual differences both in the school and the wider community.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

St Albans Secondary College is committed to providing all students with impairments, access to the highest quality educational opportunities.

PURPOSE

Our Individual Needs Program aims to:

- Enhance the students' identity, self esteem, worth and dignity.
- Encourage the students' interaction and socialisation with peers to the mutual advantage of both.
- Provide access to a curriculum, which supplies a range of opportunities for individualised, and group learning skills, knowledge and attitudes.
- Offer students the fullest opportunity to participate in the school curriculum and regular class activities.

Parents should investigate all available educational options when making a choice of school location.

Students who would benefit from participating in the Individual Needs Program at St Albans Secondary College would be:

- the student who displays a degree of interest and curiosity in his/her environment, and the ability to attend to a task at hand that would facilitate the learning process
- the student is able to work independently or in a small group situation for a period of time to facilitate classroom management, and teacher access to the whole class
- the student who has adequate communication skills that would allow him/her to express basic needs;
- the student who has enough receptive language so as to allow him/her to respond to simple verbal/gestural direction
- the student who has a degree of independent living skills
- the student who shows some readiness to conform, and accept responsibility for his/her behaviour.

IMPLEMENTATION

- On enrolment of a student with an impairment, an initial Student Support Group (SSG) will be formed, consisting of the parent/guardian, advocate (optional), teacher having responsibility for the Individual Needs student, Principal or nominee, student (where appropriate).
- An appraisal will be organised to provide information which will help determine the level of resources available to the student at the school.
- The SSG is ongoing for each student, to advise the Principal on the appropriate educational program including resources.
- An appropriate support structure will be provided as required to the student, to enable the achievement of goals determined by the SSG. The program for each individual student may vary and may consist of one or more of the following options:
 - A modified learning program which enables maximum participation of the student
 - An intense Living Skills Program to enhance a student's ability to be an independent member of the community
 - Teacher Assistant to support the student in the classroom, including support to access VET courses at external locations for VCAL students.
 - Individual assistance, which would require withdrawal from the classroom. *(Supervision would then be the responsibility of the Individual Needs Coordinator and the Teacher Assistants.)*
 - Supportive resources provided to the student - computer, laptop, software, tapes, etc
 - Specialist services provided by a health professional - Speech Pathology, Physiotherapy, Educational Psychology, Occupational Therapy, etc
 - Links to the community to facilitate specific learning goals, eg Co-Care - Health & Human Relations Course.

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in...	September 2016
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