

ENROLMENT POLICY

Our Lady of the Southern Cross Catholic Primary School

The Responsibility of OLSC Catholic Primary School within the Catholic Education System

The parents are the first educators of their children and have the obligation and the right to ensure an adequate education for their children consistent with their rights and obligations and with their beliefs and values.

Once a child becomes a member of the Catholic Church through Baptism, the parents and the Church have a commitment towards its new member. One of the obligations is to give the child the opportunity to be educated as a Catholic. Traditionally in Australia, the majority of baptised children have been given this formation through Catholic schooling. In this way, the Church exercises its commitment and responsibility.

The Bishops of Australia have always stressed the value of Catholic schools and are intensely concerned for their continuance and development as an integral part of the pastoral mission of the Church in Australia.

“Catholic education is based on an educational philosophy in which faith, culture and life are brought into harmony ... Of its nature, [the Catholic school] guides men and women to achieve human and Christian perfection and helps them to become mature in their faith.” (Statement of the Bishop’s Conference, 2006)

Thus, the Catholic school is not simply an alternative to a Government school. It is different because it is Catholic: it must offer the authentic Catholic vision. Priority of access to Catholic schools is given to Catholic students and there are ceilings in place in the Archdiocese for non-Catholic intake.

Preamble

OLSC Catholic Primary School, therefore, cannot relinquish its own freedom to proclaim the Gospel and to offer a formation based on the values to be found in a Christian education. This is its right and its duty as part of the educational and faith development mission of the Catholic Parish of St Andrew’s Werribee.

It is to be expected that the school implements the parish enrolment policy which ensures a high proportion of Catholic students in the school, non Catholic enrolments being within the limits approved by the Archbishop.

Parental contribution, needed for the maintenance of the school, is held at a level which enables parents to exercise a real choice of schooling without undue financial hardship. A family fee is set to reduce the burden on larger families. Consideration is given for families who are experiencing real hardship with the remittance of payments.

The school takes into account the viability of neighbouring schools so that provision is made for all Catholic students in the area. Each local decision must be seen to be part of the overall plan for the Archdiocese.

OLSC Catholic Primary School has the responsibility to account for its ethos, educational standards and use of funds to the supporting community, to the Parish Priest who is the local church authority, to the Catholic Education Office Melbourne, which works on behalf of the Archbishop of Melbourne. Through the CECV and CEOM the school fulfils its reporting accountability to Government bodies.

The OLSC Catholic Primary School Enrolment Policy is a uniform part of the St Andrew’s Parish school enrolment policy. The policy statement, developed by the Parish Priest and Primary school Principals, addresses the criteria for enrolment and the zoning areas within the parish that are designated for each school.



Parish of St Andrew's
105 Greaves Street North, Werribee 3030
Parish Catholic Primary Schools Enrolment Policy

- **Bethany**
- **Corpus Christi**
- **St Andrew's**
- **Our Lady of the Southern Cross**

Preamble

Our Lady of the Southern Cross Catholic Primary School, in the Parish of St Andrew's, exists to enable the church to carry out its responsibility to provide for the baptised Catholic child, a formation in faith, hence priority in enrolment is given to Catholic children.

Priority in enrolment will be given to Catholic children who reside in the school's catchment area (see map). The enrolment of non-Catholic children who reside in the school's catchment area may take place only when their enrolment would not exclude Catholic children from the school.

Enrolment Criteria

Enrolments into the school are taken in the following priority:

1. Baptised children of the Wyndham Vale Catholic Primary School's catchment.
2. Siblings of children already enrolled at the school.
3. Catholic children from other schools within St. Andrew's Parish where need exists.
4. Children from Orthodox religions residing in the catchment area.
5. Catholic children from other parishes determined by the Parish Priest & Principal.
6. Other non-Catholic Baptised Christians where a faith environment is sought for the child.
7. Non-Christians where a need is established following a meeting with the Parish Priest and Principal.

Please note: If your child falls into category 3 through 7, you must meet with the Parish Priest before handing in your enrolment form. We cannot accept your enrolment at the school until this stage is complete and we have final approval from the Parish Priest.

Documentation

Parents are required to complete the Application for Enrolment Form before enrolment into the school is considered. The following documentation is required for enrolment:

1. Baptismal Certificate
2. Birth Certificate
3. Immunisation Certificate
4. Relevant Visa and Passport
5. Thanksgiving registration number

Enrolments – Special Needs

Children with special learning needs will need to have a Program Support Group (P.S.G.) established well in advance of enrolment formalities being completed.

Waiting List

In the event of all schools in the parish being unable to offer a place to all baptised Catholic children resident in our catchment area, priority will be given to children whose parents are active members of the Parish.

Enrolment of Non-Catholic Children

In order to maintain the distinctive Catholic ethos of OLSC Catholic School, non-Catholic children may only be enrolled after an undertaking by the parents that the nature, life and identity of the school will be respected as stated in the enrolment agreement.

