Students with Disabilities Policy

Definition:
• The definition of ‘disability’ is found in the Australian Government’s Disability Discrimination Act (1992 – Amended Oct 2010), and includes a person who has lost total or partial bodily or mental functions, loss of a part of the body, malfunction of one’s body resulting in a person learning differently from a person without the disorder or malfunction.

Rationale:
• Students with disabilities have a right to education, to have their individual needs addressed and to have equity of access to the total school environment. The responsibility for the well-being and successful outcomes for these students is shared by all members of the school community.

Policy
• O'Loughlin Catholic College recognizes it has a pastoral responsibility to cater for the educational needs of all its students. In particular, the College makes every effort to provide those students with a disability appropriate educational access that will allow them to be successfully engaged in their learning with a program designed to maximize educational outcomes and pathways.

Aims:
• To create a learning environment and deliver a curriculum that meets the needs of all its students.
• To provide an educational practice that recognises the unique identity of each student, inclusive of students with a disability by tailoring a program that meets their special requirements.
• To provide the necessary educational leadership to develop a culture of inclusion in the school community.

Implementation:
• Decision-making regarding resourcing shall be based on student needs and the principles of inclusion, access, equity and participation. In this regard the College will make every effort to seek appropriate funding that will enable tailoring a suitable educational program for students with disabilities. In doing so it will listen to and learn from the student in shaping an appropriate program.
• All curriculum programs will be inclusive of all students.
• In collaboration with parents/carers, the school shall develop an individual learning program (EAP – Education Action Plan) for each student with a recognized disability. Parents/carers shall be given a copy of the EAP.
• Professional development relating to relevant disabilities as well as disability funding processes will be made available to all appropriate staff as required.
• A staff member (the Inclusion Support Coordinator) will be assigned to coordinate the school’s disabilities program, including working with families and community professionals to identify and respond to students who require specific adjustments to the learning program and to resource allocation.
• The College will work with the student, family and professionals to explore transition options and post-school pathways which support life-long learning and wellbeing.

Evaluation:

This policy was ratified by the O'Loughlin Catholic College Executive in May 2016
This policy is due for review in May 2019

Reference: CEO Inclusion Support Services - Implementation Guide. Version 20150923
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