

ARANMORE CATHOLIC COLLEGE STUDENT ENROLMENT

RATIONALE

As a Catholic school, Aranmore Catholic College's enrolment principles and procedures, as well as the placement of students in classes, should reflect Catholic education principles in terms of philosophy and in the way the procedures are implemented.

The College, founded in 1903 and developed through the labours of the Sisters of Mercy and the Christian Brothers, continues a proud tradition of providing Catholic education to those who are disadvantaged due to their historic, economic, cultural or linguistic circumstances. The College has always provided access to education for 'new Australians' and recognised its mission of seeking social justice.

As an inner city school, the College must recognise the changing demographics of the region and ensure that its educational program and extracurricular activities continue to serve both the Catholic community and the specific needs of disadvantaged groups within the wider community.

Aranmore Catholic College, as a faith community, believes:

In the certainty that the Spirit is at work in every person, the Catholic school offers itself to all, non-Christians included, with all its distinctive aims and means, acknowledging, preserving and promoting the spiritual and moral qualities, the social and cultural values, which characterise different civilisations".¹

PRINCIPLES

1. The Catholic Education Commission strives to make Catholic schooling available to children whose parents wish for them to be educated in an environment which has the Gospel, including its values, and a Catholic ethos as its basis.
2. All steps will be taken to ensure that Catholic schooling will be made available at Aranmore Catholic College to all those who seek a Catholic education for their children to the extent that available resources will allow.

If it is not possible, special considerations for the poor, the disadvantaged and the underprivileged will be a major consideration in decisions.
3. Enrolment of students at Aranmore Catholic College will:
 - reflect a sound understanding of current research on child development and recognise the importance of individual differences and special needs;
 - reflect an understanding of the special requirements dictated by the physical and social environment of the College; and
 - reflect an awareness of the collective and individual needs of teachers involved in the education of our students.
4. The College will not enroll students beyond the present or foreseen capacity to ensure that our students will be taught effectively, comfortably and without prejudice to health for the duration of their schooling at Aranmore Catholic College.
5. The College will make decisions on the number of classes and class sizes with reference to:
 - financial constraints;
 - current recognised theory and practice;
 - issues of safety and equity; and

ARANMORE CATHOLIC COLLEGE POLICY STATEMENT

- our responsibility to provide both depth and breadth of education.
-

PROCEDURES

1. Parents and/or guardians seeking to enrol their child at Aranmore Catholic College will:
 - be provided with an application, *Enrolment Form* [see attached] along with an information brochure [see attached];
 - be invited to an interview accompanied by their child with the Principal or a person designated on his/her behalf following the return of the application;
 - be taken on a tour of the College either prior to the interview or at the time of the interview;
 - be notified in writing within a month of the time of the enrolment interview as to whether a place has been offered and the nature of enrolment conditions, if any;
 - be required to pay a non-refundable deposit.
2. Selection of students will give recognition to the following factors;
 - whether the child has siblings at the College presently or previously;
 - whether the child currently attends Aranmore Primary School;
 - whether the parents are Catholic;
 - whether the parents and the child regularly participate in their local parish;
 - whether the child has access to a Catholic school within their parish or nearby vicinity; As a general rule, priority of placement will be given to practising Catholics.
3. This enrolment policy will be reviewed from time to time by the Principal and the College Board.
4. The College fees are listed in a pamphlet, *Schedule of Fees and Charges*, available from the Bursar or reception.
5. The College believes that no child should be excluded from the College based on their inability to pay. The College reserves the right to ensure that claims of financial hardship are genuine.
6. The Principal (or her/his delegate) may contact the parish priest regarding prospective students.
7. All non-Catholic children and their parents and/or guardians will be expected to actively support the Catholic ethos of the College and to respect and support our expectation that each student will participate fully in the religious education program of the College.
8. Special consideration will be given to students with special needs or disabilities subject to the College being confident that the necessary resources required to do justice to the needs of the student are currently available.

¹ The Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education
The Catholic School.- St Paul Publications, 1983.- pp.66.