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## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY POLICY

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### PREAMBLE

St Patrick's College exists for the good of its students and is committed to providing access and equity for students with disability to enable them to participate in their education as fully and independently as possible.

In keeping with the College's Mission Statement, this policy requires that as a Benedictine community which is informed by 'the Rule' all students are provided for according to need so that *'the strong have something to strive for and the weak nothing to run from'*.

### RATIONALE

St Patrick's College values the diversity of life experience, views, skills and abilities that students with disability bring to the school community.

Students with disability have the same rights and responsibilities as other students to:

- Fully access learning environments.
- Have their choices respected and considered in the context of any specific needs.
- Request assistance when this is needed.
- Pursue any grievance in relation to the school community without fear of discrimination.

St Patrick's College is committed to maintaining academic standards. The learning needs of all students can be best met through a flexible approach to course delivery and assessment.

The disclosure of information about a person's disability is a personal choice and any information provided to the College staff will remain confidential to relevant staff members.

### PRINCIPLES

This policy uses the definition of disability as outlined by the *Disability Discrimination Act (1992)*. This covers any permanent or temporary condition that affects a student's ability to undertake her studies as a result of physical, intellectual, psychiatric, sensory, neurological or learning disabilities.

It also includes the presence, in the body, of a disease-causing organism and covers disability which people have now, have had in the past, believe to have or may have in the future.

The *Disability Discrimination Act (1992)* makes it unlawful for educational institutions or their staff to discriminate directly or indirectly, against a person with disability. The concept of 'reasonable accommodation' is recognised as the minimum standard for the delivery of training and services.



St Patrick's College will strive to ensure that:

- All new buildings and refurbishment of existing facilities and surrounds will be accessible to all students. The College will progressively make existing facilities accessible as funds allow with priority to key areas.
- All its services will be accessible.
- Any information relevant to students or potential students will be available in alternative formats as requested.
- College publicity and promotional materials will reflect positive attitudes and be inclusive of people with disability.

## **PROCEDURES**

St Patrick's College recognises the need for advocacy and support for all students with disability and provides a grievance procedure to support students' participation in school life.

Support services and equipment will be arranged in consultation with students and their parents/carers. They will be encouraged to discuss their needs with College staff as early as possible.

Courses will be developed, delivered and assessed in a manner that ensures all students are able to participate to their maximum potential, without compromising academic standards.

It will strive to develop positive, informed and non-discriminatory attitudes to the needs of students with disability amongst staff and students. Students with disability will be consulted on all matters which affect them in relation to their disability.

Students' rights to privacy will be respected.

The College will work cooperatively with external agencies to achieve optimal outcome for students with disability.

It will commit to continuous improvement of any student's Disability Action Plan.