


**RATIONALE:**

Students with disabilities have a right to attend a mainstream government school and to have their individual needs addressed. Students with a disability are diverse with a wide range of needs depending on the nature of their disability and individual characteristics and circumstances of the child.

**AIMS:**

To provide all students with learning opportunities which cater for their individual needs and individual learning styles.

To ensure that those students who qualify for the Program for Students with Disabilities (PSD) have Individual Learning Plans tailored to meet their special requirements.

To create a supportive environment for children with a disability by being aware of the different support needs and the implementation of the Child Safety Standards.

**PURPOSE:**

The Program for Students with Disabilities aims to maximise student's potential growth in education and learning, and ensure that students with disabilities are valued and participate in all aspects of school life, consistent with optimal and relevant goals and aspirations. There are three specific objectives which together will achieve this goal for the Program for Students with Disabilities:

1. Student learning – Student potential for growth and development in (academic) discipline-based, personal and interpersonal learning, and independence in learning is maximised and is consistent with their goals and aspirations.
2. Student engagement and wellbeing – Students are motivated and are able to participate fully in their education and wider school life, consistent with optimal and relevant goals and aspirations.
3. Student pathways and transitions – Students successfully transition to, throughout and from school, and the pathways selected maximise their potential for growth and development while they attend school and after they leave school.

**GUIDELINES:**

- Department of Education and Training (DET) guidelines will form the basis of the school's procedures.
- Enrolment of students with disabilities and impairments will follow set (DET) procedures.
- A student on the Program for Students with Disabilities Program will have a Student Support Group (SSG) established to assess the needs of the student and increase the school's ability to meet these needs in line with DET guidelines.

The aims of the SSG will be to:

- Establish a positive relationship between parents, teachers and Education Support Staff.
- Increase the student's participation in the educational programs and social life of the school.
- Provide ongoing support for teachers, aides, parents and the student in program planning and direction, and regular monitoring and evaluation of the student's progress.
- Initiate assessment procedures involving educational psychologists and other paramedical staff will be instituted as needed.
- Review the student's needs in light of the assessment, determining resources required and DET's ability to fund the needs.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

- All students who are funded under the Program for Students with Disabilities Program are welcome at Mill Park Primary School.
- The Assistant Principal will coordinate the Program for Students with Disabilities Program at Mill Park Primary School. The scope of responsibility will include the:
  - coordination of applications for funding.
  - coordination of Student Support Groups.
  - development and implementation of program budgets.
  - coordination of staff professional development.
  - other issues related to students with disabilities and their respective program needs.
  - Ensure all teachers complete ABLES on their PSD student biannually.

- The process for applications will occur at the earliest opportunity to provide the maximum potential for students to be successful, and to ensure a smooth transition into the school setting.
- Student Support Groups will be established for all eligible students to facilitate curriculum planning and resource provision.
- Student Support Groups will be required to meet 4 times a year ( once per term), and will make recommendations to the Principal regarding the development and implementation of individual student programs including student achievement goals, timelines and methods of evaluation, the use of support staff and external consultants, and the use of any additional resources required. All meetings will be documented and available to all members.
- Communication with relevant consultants and support agencies will be undertaken on a needs basis.
- All curriculum programs will be inclusive of all students.
- Professional development relating to relevant disabilities as well as disabilities funding processes will be made available to all appropriate staff as required.
- The Student Support Group process will be fully explained to all parties.
- SSG meetings will be organised on a regular basis throughout the year. An SSG will consist of the parents/guardians, class teacher, Education Support Staff, Program for Students with Disabilities Coordinator or Leading Teacher and the student, where appropriate.
- The SSG meeting will be called by the classroom teacher or the coordinator.
- Appropriate adjustments and modifications will be made for the students' needs.

The SSG will:

- identify the educational and social SMART goals for the student
- determine an appropriate educational program to meet the goals
- provide advice to the Principal concerning the educational needs of the student, and the types of resources required to meet these needs
- review and evaluate the student's program on a regular basis
- allocate DET funds provided within the Disabilities and Impairments program to facilitate the students' needs
- keep accurate minutes of all meetings and distribute these to all parties present

#### **EVALUATION:**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle. Each Student Support Group will evaluate their progress and that of each student and provide a written report including recommendations to the Principal at the end of each school year.