

Section 7.17

Learning Support Policy

Rationale

The innate dignity of each human person is central to the message of Jesus Christ. Therefore, St John Bosco College endeavours to provide for all its students who have special educational needs.

St John Bosco College considers the provision of an inclusive, integrated, whole school and cross curriculum approach to learning support and the provision of appropriate learning support services and programs as an integral and constitutive aspect of its pastoral and educational mission.

Principles

At St John Bosco College we believe that our endeavours to provide for the learning support needs of all students should:

1. reflect the dignity of human person created the image and likeness of God;
2. adopt an inclusive, whole-school approach that reflects the requirements of the relevant legal, education and ecclesiastical authorities;
3. be success orientated and affirm the worth of each student;
4. be oriented to addressing the needs of individual students and groups of students;
5. be integrated across the curriculum;
6. be an integral part of the professional responsibilities of all teachers;
7. utilise contemporary research, strategies and methodologies;
8. utilise the support services offered by the Catholic Education Office and other relevant organisations;
9. include a diverse range of services, initiatives and programs that are:
 - o based upon addressing the needs of students;
 - o well documented;
 - o regularly reviewed, evaluated and updated;
 - o appropriately resourced and staffed;
10. requires the establishment of well documented, inclusive practices, procedures, and practices that are regularly reviewed;
11. requires constant communication amongst all involved addressing the needs of a particular student;
12. be supported by ongoing professional development of staff.

Range of Current Programs

St John Bosco College offers a diverse range of learning support services and programs, including:

- o Special Education Program
- o Special Needs Program
- o The Gifted and Talented Program
- o The Peer Mentoring Program
- o Intensive Reading Program

- o The Learning Assistance Program (LAP)
- o Transition to Work Program
- o Life Skills Program
- o Numeracy Assistance Program
- o Examination Assistance Program

Guidelines

1. The College will commit itself to the provision of appropriate learning support services and programs to address the needs of students with particular learning needs including special needs students, special education students and gifted and talented students.
2. All faculties will explicitly incorporate and document a variety of learning support strategies into all teaching and learning programs. There will be provision within all courses for addressing the needs of students with particular learning needs.
3. Individual teachers have the responsibility to ensure that a variety of learning support strategies is explicitly incorporated into teaching and learning programs and evident in student work.
4. All KLA Co-ordinators are responsible for ensuring that learning support strategies are formally documented in teaching and learning programs and that they are given effect in the classroom.
5. The College will appoint a Learning Support Co-ordinator responsible for animating and facilitating the provision of inclusive learning support services and the co-ordination and ongoing development of the diverse range of learning support programs that operate within the College. The Learning Support Co-ordinator leads a team of competent, professional learning support educators and is accountable, in the first instance, to the Curriculum Co-ordinator.
6. The College will establish:
 - o appropriate procedures to identify and address the needs of students with particular learning requirements;
 - o appropriate programs to address the needs of students with particular learning requirements;
 - o communication processes that involve, where necessary and appropriate, parents, teachers and relevant professionals;
 - o mechanisms for regularly reviewing, evaluating and updating programs.
7. The College will develop and maintain positive relationships with the relevant Catholic Education Office personnel so as to enhance the development of staff and the opportunities available for students.
8. The College will ensure that appropriate funding processes are followed and that the relevant legal requirements are satisfied.
9. The College will provide professional development opportunities to enable teachers to be aware of contemporary research and to implement relevant strategies and methodologies.