



1.2 ENROLMENT POLICY

1. Rationale

In the spirit of Catherine McAuley and the Mercy tradition, Mercy College endeavours to make Catholic education accessible to all those who desire it. It is acknowledged that places may not always be available for all applicants and that a selection process may be needed.

2. Aims

- to ensure that when there is competition for places at Mercy College, priorities are assigned appropriately
- to encourage the enrolment of students whose families are genuinely seeking Catholic education rather than simply an accessible private education
- to ensure that the Catholic ethos of the College is maintained
- to evaluate the suitability of Mercy College for particular applicants according to the ethos of the College
- to maintain harmonious relationships with neighbouring Catholic and Government schools

3. Policy Statement

Mercy College was originally established by six feeder parishes. These parishes made a significant financial commitment to the College and should be given priority in enrolment. The Archdiocese of Melbourne designates eight feeder parishes for Mercy College. It is our expectation that girls from these parishes attend Mercy College.

Following applications for enrolment at year 7 level, the Principal of Mercy College exchanges lists of applicants with the Principals of neighbouring Catholic schools. Where students appear on more than one list, the parents are contacted to clarify their preferences.

Students are given preference for places at Mercy College as follows:

- i. siblings of current students
- ii. students from Catholic feeder primary schools
- iii. students from other Catholic primary schools
- iv. Catholic students from government primary schools
- v. students from non Catholic oriental families (orthodox denominations)
- vi. students from other Christian families
- vii. others

These guidelines notwithstanding, each case will be considered on its own merits and enrolments accepted in cases where the Principal and the Canonical Administrators of Mercy College consider this appropriate



The number of places offered will be determined by the available accommodation and resources, and class sizes as determined by industrial and local agreements. Local agreements take into account the particular needs of the girls of this area.

Our aim is that the number of students who are not Catholics or members of non Catholic oriental churches should not exceed 7% of the total enrolment. However, this proportion may be exceeded in order to ensure the viability of the College.

An enrolment may be refused if, after making appropriate enquiries, the College considers that acceptance may significantly prejudice the education of other students. The pastoral care of the applicant will also be considered.

Students with disabilities and impairments will be enrolled along with other students.

The ability of parents to pay school fees is not a criterion for acceptance of enrolment of a student at Mercy College.

The academic ability of a prospective student is not a criterion for acceptance of enrolment of a student at Mercy College.

Students not admitted will be placed on a waiting list for up to one academic year and notified in order of preference when an appropriate vacancy occurs.

All applicants and their families will be interviewed prior to acceptance of enrolment. Enrolments at years 8 – 12 will only be accepted following contact with the student's current school and submission of recent reports.

4. Associated documentation
CEOM Policy 2.4: Enrolment

Prepared by: Mercy College Board
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