

Enrolment Policy

This Policy gives guidance to those within the School community and to those who would join it concerning enrolment criteria. While the Policy is as comprehensive as possible, there will inevitably be some situations, which are not specifically covered. In such instances, it is the Head of Darkinjung Barker's responsibility to decide the appropriate course of action to take in the circumstances.

Darkinjung Barker seeks to enrol children who will be able to benefit from the academic program the School offers, who are willing to participate enthusiastically in the full range of activities available, and whose families understand the importance of the School's Christian aims and objectives.

ENROLMENT PROCESS

Application to go on Registration List

The School's academic program covers K to Year 6 and entrance to the School normally commences in Kindergarten.

Parents/Guardians wishing to enroll their child at Darkinjung Barker must first receive clearance from the Darkinjung Land Council who confirm indigenous connection. Once the relevant Registration Form and other documents are provided and the nominal Acceptance Fee of \$50.00 is paid, the child is then placed on the School's Acceptance List.

The Council of Barker College, in consultation with the Darkinjung Land Council, set the nominal fee payable.

Student Application

When considering applications for a place at the School, preference will be given to siblings of students attending the School.

Disability

Where a child has declared education support needs or a disability or other information has come to light indicating a possible need for educational support services or for some other measures or actions to assist the child to participate in the School's courses or programs or to use the School's facilities or services, the School will make an initial assessment of the child's needs through the following course of action.

Consultation and gathering of information

The School may consult with the child and the child's parents/guardians. The School, after consultation with the child and the child's parents/guardians may:

- (a) require the parents/guardians to provide medical, psychological or other reports from specialists outside the School; and/or
- (b) obtain an independent assessment of the child.

Any assessments or reports required from non-school personnel will be at the parents' expense.

Assessment of child's needs and measures required

Where information obtained by the School indicates that the child has a disability, the School will seek to identify the exact nature of the child's needs and the strategies required to address them.

Having obtained this information, the School will determine whether the child, if enrolled, would require some measures or actions to assist the child to participate in the School's courses or programs or to use the School's facilities or services that are not required by students who do not have the child's disability.

Where the School determines that the child would require some such measures or actions, the School will seek to identify whether those measures or actions required are reasonable in that they balance the interests of all parties affected.

In assessing whether a particular measure or action for a particular child is reasonable, the School will have regard to all the relevant circumstances and interests, including:

- (a) the child's disability;
- (b) the views of the child or the child's parents about:
 - i) whether the particular measure or action is reasonable;
 - ii) the extent to which the particular measure or action would ensure that the child was able to participate in the School's courses or programs or to use the School's facilities or services on the same basis as a child without the disability;
- (c) the effect of the adjustment on the child, including the effect on the child's:
 - i) ability to achieve learning outcomes; and
 - ii) ability to participate in courses or programs; and
 - iii) independence;
- (d) the effect of the particular measure or action on anyone else affected, including the School, its staff and other students;
- (e) the costs and benefits of taking the particular measure or action.

Unreasonable Measures and Unjustifiable Hardship

The School will take measures and actions that are reasonable but will not necessarily take measures or actions that are unreasonable or that would impose unjustifiable hardship on the School. In determining whether taking the required measures or actions, even though they are reasonable, would impose unjustifiable hardship on the School, the School will take into account all relevant circumstances of the case, including:

- (a) the nature of the benefit or detriment likely to accrue to, or be suffered by, any persons concerned (including other students, staff members, the School, the child, the family of the child, and the School community);
- (b) the effect of the disability of any person concerned, including the child;
- (c) the School's financial circumstances and the estimated amount of expenditure required to be made by the School; and
- (d) the availability of financial and other assistance to the School.

School not obliged to make offer of place

Where the School determines that the enrolment of the child would require the School to take unreasonable measures or actions to ensure that the child is able to participate in the School's courses or programs, or to use the School's facilities and services, on the same basis as a student without a disability, or would cause unjustifiable hardship, the School may decline to offer a place or defer the offer.

The School reserves the right not to offer any child a place at the School or to defer the offer of a place to any child at its discretion but particularly when the parents, having been aware of their child's specific educational needs, decline to declare those needs or withhold relevant information pertaining to their child.

Discrimination

The relevant Legislation listed at the end of this Policy makes it unlawful to discriminate against a person on the grounds of their disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, intersex status or race. The School is committed to fulfilling its obligations under the law in this Policy.

DEFINITIONS

The term **'parents'** includes guardians or any other person who has applied to have a child entered on the waiting list or enrolled at the School and, where the child has only one parent, means that parent.

'Disability', in relation to a child, means:

- total or partial loss of the child's bodily or mental functions; or
- total or partial loss of a part of the body; or
- the presence in the body of organisms causing disease or illness; or
- the presence in the body of organisms capable of causing disease or illness; or
- the malfunction, malformation or disfigurement of a part of the child's body; or
- a disorder or malfunction that results in the child learning differently from a child without the disorder or malfunction; or
- a disorder, illness or disease that affects a child's thought processes, perception of reality, emotions or judgment or that results in disturbed behaviour.

and includes a disability that:

- presently exists; or
- previously existed but no longer exists; or
- may exist in the future (including because of a genetic predisposition to that disability); or
- is imputed to a person.

and, to avoid doubt, a disability that is otherwise covered by this definition includes behaviour that is a symptom or manifestation of the disability.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

- Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Commonwealth)
- Disability Standards for Education 2005 (Commonwealth)
- Race Discrimination Act 1975 (Commonwealth)
- Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Commonwealth)
- Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW)