ENROLMENT POLICY

Relevant Vision Statement:
At St Joseph's Rochester we believe every person is valued and respected, with individuality promoted and celebrated within a positive, enriching environment.

Relevant Mission Statement:
At St Joseph's Rochester we believe in supporting individual learning and providing opportunities for individuals to reach their full potential.

Policy Statements:

Basic Beliefs:
Every child has a right to be part of a learning community, which provides a caring and stimulating environment where people care about and challenge each other. All Catholic children have the right to attend St. Joseph’s and St. Joseph’s is open to children from other denominations if families are prepared to accept the ethos of St. Joseph’s School.

Aims:

• We strive to be authentically Catholic and faithful to the Church its traditions and its teachings.
• We expect that those who choose a catholic school do so on the understanding that they respect and agree to support the catholic identity of the school and acknowledge the importance of religious education for their children.
• St. Joseph’s is open to all who are willing to commit to support the philosophy, values and aims of Catholic schooling.
• We have a responsibility to welcome, accept and support those who are poor, marginalised and in most need.
• It is our policy to include rather than exclude.
• We will try to ensure that the enrolment process is a welcome manifestation of the teachings and values of the Church.
• We will provide all children with an excellent education based on Gospel values.

Organisation:
Priority of enrolments will be:

• Siblings of existing families in the school.
• Catholic children belonging to the Parish of St. Joseph’s Rochester.
• Non- Catholic Children.
Enrolment Guidelines:

1. Whilst the degree of faith commitment of the child's parents is a relevant consideration, it should not be a criterion for enrolling a child in a Catholic School.
2. Children should not be excluded from St. Joseph’s because the parents are unable to pay their fees.
3. Priority is given to Catholic children therefore enrolment of non-Catholic children should not prevent Catholic children from enrolling.
4. Non-Catholic children may be enrolled at St. Joseph’s only where class sizes are within acceptable limits.
5. The children may be enrolled only after an undertaking by the parents that the nature, life and identity of the school and parish will be respected and that they will reinforce what has been learnt at school.
6. The parents of non-Catholic children should be given clear understanding that the acceptance for enrolment of their children does not given them an automatic right of admission into a Catholic Secondary School.

Procedure:

• Enrolments are advertised in the local paper late July.
• Parent information evening is held for parents in August.
• The Principal interviews all new families. This includes a tour of the school, preferably when students are in class.
• An acceptance letter being sent to the families formalising enrolment.
• Parents given information about Orientation Program (which will take place in Term 4).
• Parents are given a Parent Information Book in Term 4.

Resources:

• Prospectus Folders
• School Brochures
• Parent Information Book

Reviewed ~ September 2011
Next Review ~ 2015