



MATER DEI SPECIAL NEEDS POLICY

Children with special needs are children who have learning disabilities, behaviour disorders, other disabilities, or any other condition where they need assistance to learn.

Mater Dei is committed to providing an individual and holistic education in a safe, non-threatening environment for students from Kindergarten to Year 12 who have been assessed with Mild to Moderate Cognitive Disability.

In addition to our obligations to children with special needs, Mater Dei School is committed to ensuring that we fulfil our legal obligations including those relating to discrimination and disability standards. Refer to our Disability Discrimination Policy.

Individual Plans

In accordance with our commitment to provide our students with a safe and supportive environment, and our obligations under the Disability Standards for Education 2005 (Cth), we address the needs of each student with special needs by formulating an Individual Plan.

Our Individual Plans address issues such as:

- reasonable adjustments in relation to admission, enrolment, a course or program, or facilities or services;
- reasonable steps to ensure that students can participate in school on the same basis as other students; and
- reasonable steps to allow students to access student support services on the same basis as other students.

We may also formulate other plans for students, and other documentation that may be required to access the support that they need. Examples of these may include Individual Health Care Plans (Seizure, asthma, diabetes, anaphylaxis, mobility) and Behavioural Support Plans. In addition to this all Mater Dei students have an Individual Student Support Plan and Individual Student Risk Profile.

Syllabus

There is no separate K-6 syllabus for students with special needs. K-6 students with special needs work towards the BOSTES syllabuses. However, students with special needs may require special support or adjustments to enable them to achieve syllabus outcomes. Students in Stages 4, 5 and 6 at Mater Dei access a Life Skills Syllabus for each course for their ROSA or HSC, as outlined on the BOSTES ACE website.

Learning Support

The learning support that a child with special needs will require depends on their individual needs. In some cases, we will provide professional support staff for the child. We will also

seek external resources, and ensure application is made for specialised funding.

Assessments

We will make all reasonably necessary adjustments to allow students with special needs to complete internal assessments.

RELATED POLICIES/STATEMENTS

- Mater Dei Disability Discrimination Policy
- Mater Dei Medical Health Care Plans Policy
- Mater Dei Anaphylactic Shock Management Policy and Procedures
- Mater Dei Asthma Management Policy and Procedures
- Mater Dei Seizure Management Policy and Procedures
- Mater Dei Diabetes Management Policy and Procedures
- Mater Dei Mobility Management Policy and Procedures
- Mater Dei Student Curriculum Policy and Procedures
- Mater Dei Student Assessment Policy and Procedures
- Mater Dei Student Individual Planning Policy and Procedures

Approved at Leadership Team YES / NO / NA	Signed	Date
Approved at Board YES / NO / NA	Signed	Date
Staff Briefed YES / NO	Signed	Date
Review Date February 2016		