



Student diversity in Catholic schools

Policy

Toowoomba Catholic Schools (TCS) are called to be welcoming and inclusive communities where a spirit of welcome is extended to diverse student groups irrespective of race, religion, ethnicity, gender or physical ability.

Definition

The term 'inclusive education' is defined as the provision of a safe, supportive and disciplined learning environment responsive to the needs of all students in order for them to have access to facilities and equipment, equitable and genuine opportunities for engagement with the curriculum and ability to demonstrate progress in their learning.

Rationale

TCS has a strong commitment to social inclusion and student wellbeing, catering for students with a diverse range of personal characteristics, backgrounds and experiences. These may be attributable to physical, religious, cultural, personal health or wellbeing, intellectual, psychological, socio-economic or life experiences. This diverse range of personal characteristics, backgrounds and experiences enriches the communal life of schools. We witness to Christ's mission through an inclusive embrace of all staff and students.

Actions

- Enrolment applications are to be processed in accordance with the TCS Enrolment application procedures.
- Relevant staff, specialists and parents/guardians are to be involved in the enrolment process where that is deemed necessary.
- The final decision for initial enrolment, continuing enrolment or otherwise rests with the principal.
- Schools are to make available appropriate professional learning and additional resourcing to assist individual students engage with the curriculum and demonstrate progress in their learning.
- Schools are to consider flexible approaches, structures, procedures and curriculum delivery to facilitate individual options and pathways for students.
- Schools are to create physical environments that are accessible, stimulating, safe and welcoming.
- Schools are to provide information to relevant groups to facilitate community understanding and acceptance of difference where that is necessary.

Most Reverend Ken Howell | Bishop of Toowoomba