

Boroondara Park Primary School Policies	Ratified April 2016
Program for Students with Disabilities (PSD) POLICY	Review April 2019

Rationale:

Students with disabilities or impairments have a right to attend a mainstream government school and to have their individual needs addressed.

At Boroondara Park Primary School teachers, families and the wider school community work together to support students with disabilities to participate in learning that enriches their life, and maximises their achievements and wellbeing through quality care and teaching.

Aims:

- To provide all students with quality teaching practices that are socially inclusive and that respect and respond to the diversity in our education community.
- To ensure that those students who attract Program for Students with Disabilities (PSD) funding have programs tailored to address their special requirements.

The PSD Program at Boroondara Park Primary School is based on the guiding principles taken from the "Program for Students with Disabilities – Guidelines for Schools 2015 which are:

- The neighbourhood school (regular or specialist) as the first point of contact for the education of any child
- The initiation of a Student Support Group (SSG) should be made prior to enrolment and will undertake an appraisal and provide information to help determine the necessary resourcing
- Funding for students is based on educational needs rather than the description of the disability or impairment
- The ongoing use of the SSG is to advise the principal on the programming and resourcing needs of the student
- The educational opportunities for all students are non-discriminatory and in accordance with the relevant Acts of Parliament.
- The requirement from all parties involved in the PSD process to have their needs addressed satisfactorily, is fundamental to the success of the integration experience.
- As Boroondara Park Primary School is a mainstream school, the overall expectations for all students will remain constant, with the understanding that every child enrolled strives to achieve the stated goals.

Implementation:

- A staff member will be assigned responsibility to coordinate the PSD program at our school, including the coordination of applications for funding, the coordination of SSGs, the development and implementation of program budgets, coordination of staff professional development and all other issues related to students with disabilities and their respective program needs.
- The eligibility process for applications will occur at the earliest opportunity to provide the maximum potential for applications to be successful, and to ensure a smooth transition for new students into our school setting.
- All applications for PSD funding will be completed using the most current DET 'Program for Students with Disabilities Guidelines' documents
- The program will aim to make reasonable adjustments as manageable within the parameters of the funding allocation and resources available to the school
- SSGs will be invited to meet once per term, and will make recommendations to the principal regarding the development and implementation of individual student programs including student achievement goals, timelines and methods of evaluation, the use of support staff and external consultants, and the use of any additional resources required. All meetings will be documented and available to all members.
- An active and cohesive home/school partnership plays a critical role in addressing the individual needs of the student. Parents will be encouraged to have ongoing informal discussions about their child's progress and any issues arising throughout the year at mutually convenient times as well as the scheduled formal SSG meetings. Regular discussion about student goals, achievements and challenges is important to create cohesion and allow for everyone in the home/school partnership to feel valued and heard. Communication with relevant consultants and support agencies will be undertaken on a needs basis.
- Curriculum programs will be inclusive of all students, where possible.

Membership of the Student Support Group:

SSGs will be established for all eligible students to facilitate curriculum planning and resource provision within the parameters of the most current DET 'Student Support Group Guidelines'.

Aims of the Student Support Group:

- To facilitate the participation of the student in the educational programs and social life of the school
- To provide on-going support for the student, teachers and parents in program development, implementation and review
- To negotiate all issues pertaining to the child participating effectively in school activities
- To make parents aware of all possible educational settings available to their child relative to their needs
- To assess the type and amount of support required for the child to participate to their fullest extent
- To ensure program development includes behaviour management strategies and procedures where relevant
- To ensure that those with the most knowledge of, and responsibility for the student, work together to establish shared goals for the student's educational future

Responsibilities of the Student Support Group:

- Identify the educational and social objectives of the student
- Explore agencies (including medical and paramedical) that are able to support the school in the development of appropriate educational and management goals/strategies
- Where relevant to work with agencies to develop appropriate behaviour management strategies
- Determine appropriate educational goals
- Identify ways to implement the program
- Determine additional educational resources required
- Follow guidelines for requesting resources required
- Review student's achievements against established goals

Where a behaviour management plan has been implemented but the student is unable to follow the plan, the SSG will seek support from external specialist agencies and make recommendations for changes to the management plan. Consideration will be given to the student transferring to a setting appropriate to the student's needs, if required as a shared enrolment or as a preferred full time setting.

Parent Advocate:

A parent may be accompanied by an advocate who will support them by encouraging full parental participation in the decision making process. The advocate may assist the parents in understanding the processes and increasing awareness of relevant DET procedures. Where a parent advocate is utilised in the process, the school recognises their participation in discussions in a support capacity, but not in the final decision making.

Consultants to the Program Support Group:

Any SSG member requiring the relevant expertise and information offered by a consultant, especially one involved in the student's program, may nominate such persons to attend a SSG meeting. The school will maintain contact with medical and paramedical personnel already involved in the treatment and ongoing maintenance of the student.

Interpreters:

An interpreter will be accessed, if required by parents, to assist in communication translation.

Grievances: If issues cannot be satisfactorily resolved parents will be referred to the <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/school/principals/spag/community/policyparentsconcerns.pdf>

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's policy review cycle.