

INTEGRATION POLICY

Preamble

In accordance with DET guidelines (Program for Students with Disabilities Guidelines and Student Support Group Guidelines), the Integration Policy ensures that every student has access to a quality education that meets their individual needs.

Rationale

Mount Ridley Prep – 12 College is committed to providing students who are funded under the Program for Students with Disabilities the ability to access and participate in the highest quality education and social opportunities. Mount Ridley P – 12 College will ensure that students are accepted as equals and participate in all aspects of school life, consistent with their relevant goals and aspirations.

The Program for Students with Disabilities provides for eligible students in the following categories:

- Physical disability
- Visual impairment
- Severe behaviour disorder
- Hearing impairment
- Intellectual disability
- Autism Spectrum Disorder; and
- Severe language disorder with critical educational needs.

Guiding Principles

At Mount Ridley Prep – 12 College, the Integration Policy aims to ensure:

- students are provided with the opportunity to achieve at their own rate and to reach their full potential.
- the provision of a welcoming and supportive learning environment that is informed by the physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs of all students.
- support for students and their families in making the transition from kinder, primary school or another educational setting and onto further education, training and employment.
- a supportive and successful partnership that involves parents, staff and students where collaborative decision making is encouraged.
- that the expertise of staff working at the College is maintained and developed.

Implementation

At Mount Ridley P – 12 College inclusive schooling will be encouraged at all levels. The College recognises that some students have specific needs and these needs will be met to the best of the College's ability and resources. In order to make appropriate decisions continual liaison with parents, the College and outside agencies will be fostered.

New Applications

- At Mount Ridley P – 12 College any child that has a disability, will be considered for enrolment on the Integration program. Eligibility, according to the criteria outlined in the handbook 'Program for Students with Disabilities', has to be met.
- After enrolment of a student with a disability it is the parents and Students with Disabilities Program Manager's responsibility to gather the necessary documentation and establish eligibility.

- Once eligibility has been established, the College Principal (or nominee) is responsible for the formation of a Student Support Group and an Educational Needs Questionnaire is to be completed. When arranging an Educational Needs Questionnaire meeting, a DET nominee is required to oversee the meeting process.
- Funding through the Program for Students with Disabilities Management System (PSDMS) model will be used by the school to support the student in their individual learning and social needs.

Student Support Group

- Face to face meetings will be convened at least once a semester, supported by, a member of the Student Support Group. Further telephone correspondence will be as required.
- The Student Support Group will consist of the Students with Disabilities Program Manager, the classroom teacher, the parents or guardians of the student, a parent advocate (if required), the Integration Aide, and where necessary visiting teachers, guidance officers and representatives from outside agencies, such as DFFH.
- The Students with Disabilities Program Manager and the student's classroom/mentor teacher will be responsible for the setting and arrangement of meeting times. Meetings should be scheduled within the first 6 weeks of a Term.
- The meeting will be chaired and minuted by the Students with Disabilities Program Manager. Minutes will be provided to all members.
- The primary purpose of the Student Support Group is to review, update, set goals and provide recommendations for future directions, programs and resources to meet the changing needs of the student.
- The rights of the student and parent/guardian will be protected by respecting the confidentiality of information.

Individual Learning Plans

- The focus of the Student Support Group is on the educational planning and the monitoring of the student's progress. When developing and planning an Individual Education Plan for a student with a disability, the following guidelines need to be addressed:
 - Understanding the student's needs - this involves sharing existing information and reports, including behaviour strategies.
 - Identifying student's current skills and strengths.
 - Identifying the most appropriate learning styles.
 - Focusing on setting Educational Goals (long term planning)
 - Identifying Learning Outcomes (short-term goals).
 - Selecting priorities for content to be taught, and deciding what needs to be taught.
- The classroom teacher is responsible at all times for the implementation of the educational program.
- The Integration Aide will assist in implementing the program under the supervision of the classroom teacher.
- The student with a disability should be encouraged to participate in all school activities including, camps and excursions, and all efforts be made to cater for their needs as long as it is safe and practicable to do so.
- The classroom teacher will report on the Individual Education Plan at the end of each semester.

Documentation

- Files for each student are to be maintained in a centrally housed secure filing cabinet.

Other Details

- Professional development will be arranged, where required, for the student's teacher, Integration Aide and other staff. Information sessions for other students who will have direct contact with the integrated student may also be required.
- The appointment of Teacher Aides and the outsourcing of specialist support will be the responsibility of the College Principal and Director of Student Services, in consultation with the Business Manager.

Evaluation

As part of the College review cycle this policy will be reviewed every three years.

Date policy ratified: August 2021

Date of next review:-2024