



**ST MARY'S
CATHOLIC
SCHOOL**

Mary Our Help

Enrolment Policy

Issue Date: November 2019

Revision Date: August 2022

NEED: This policy is to be used by St Mary's Catholic School in conjunction with the Enrolment Policy that has been ratified by the Townsville Diocesan Education Council. Due to the high demand for places at St Mary's Catholic School, the following Policy has been developed to assist the Principal to prioritise enrolment applications.

GOSPEL VALUES: Compassion, Justice and Outreach.

MERCY VALUES: Love, Truth, Service and Respect for all of Creation.

DIRECTION: St Mary's Catholic School's commitment is to provide a Catholic education for children whose families are committed to the goals and values of the school. Enrolment will be offered provided there are sufficient vacancies and parents are prepared to support the philosophy and charism of the school.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

1. St Mary's Catholic School provides continuous education for students from Preparatory to Year 6. Consequently, students do not re-enrol in subsequent years.
2. At initial enrolment, all parents must give a firm undertaking that they will accept and support, during the period of their child's enrolment, the life, nature and identity of St Mary's Catholic School, including the appropriate participation of their children in the Religious Education Programs.
3. No child is to be denied enrolment at St Mary's Catholic School because of an inability of a parent/guardian, as against unwillingness, to meet financial requirements.
4. Enrolment applications received after the due date will only be considered if vacancies still exist, irrespective of where they might otherwise be placed in the priority order.
5. Date of application may be used as a consideration.
6. Applications for students new to the School will be assessed according to the following enrolment criteria:

PREP (in order of priority)

- A. Catholics who are siblings of students presently enrolled at the School or have graduated from the School.
- B. Non Catholics who are siblings of students presently enrolled at the School or have graduated from the School.
- C. Catholics, siblings first, who are transferring from other Catholic Schools or Colleges from outside the Bowen area.

- D. Students beginning their schooling who are Catholics and with demonstrable links to the St Mary's Parish community.
- E. Students beginning their schooling who are Catholics.
- F. Students beginning their schooling who are not Catholics.

PRIMARY – YEARS 1-6 (in order of priority)

- A. All Catholic applicants (siblings first) with demonstrable links to the St Mary's Parish community. Applicants will be encouraged to support their local Catholic School.
 - B. Catholics who are on waiting lists at the School because classes were full at the time of their original application.
 - C. Catholics (siblings first) who are transferring from other Catholic Schools or Colleges outside of the Bowen area.
 - D. Students beginning their schooling who are Catholics.
 - E. Catholics (siblings first) who are transferring from non-Catholic Schools or Colleges.
 - F. Students (siblings first) beginning their schooling who are not Catholics.
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- 7. The definition of a Catholic is any person who has a Baptism Certificate from a Rite of the Catholic Church or a certificate of reception into the Catholic Church if baptised in another Christian Church.
 - 8. Siblings refer to students presently enrolled at the School or having graduated from the School.
 - 9. The Church's preferential option for the poor is fundamental for Catholic schools, i.e. the poor have a special and prior claim on the Church's care and attention. Catholic schools have a special responsibility toward those who are in any way marginalised.
 - 10. Acceptance of any application for enrolment is always subject to a satisfactory interview, providing all necessary documentation and references, and ultimately, after having sought appropriate advice, to the Principal's final discretion.
 - 11. There may be confidential circumstances only known to the Principal that may influence decision-making concerning families with great pastoral and family needs.
 - 12. Information which may be used to decide an enrolment offer may include:
 - Applications and interviews
 - Application date received by the School
 - Information from the Parish community
 - The ability of the student and family to contribute to the cultural and Religious growth of the school, and
 - Particular demand in the year levels.