

Students with Significant Health Needs

Rationale

Students enrolled at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Primary School who suffer from significant health problems deserve and require a supportive and flexible school environment that understands and responds to their individual needs.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide a school environment that is supportive of, and responsive to, the physical, social, emotional and academic needs of students with significant health problems.

Implementation

- All students who are entitled to attend St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Primary School are welcome to do so.
- All students have a right to have their individual physical, social, emotional and academic needs identified and addressed.
- The parents/carers of students with significant health needs are required to meet with the principal and key staff to develop an individual plan that details the student's needs, as well as detailing an anticipated schedule of school or hospital attendances etc.
- Parents/carers are reminded that staff may not be qualified, competent or comfortable providing some forms of medication or support. Staff may reserve a right of refusal to perform certain medical tasks in some instances.
- All staff associated with students with health needs will be made aware of the student's condition and requirements. Staff will be provided with professional development as required.
- Open communication processes will be put into place, including communications books and parent support group meetings where required.
- Forward planning will provide flexible educational programs that can be modified or conducted at home or in hospital.
- Open communication will be maintained with educational facilities in hospitals so as to ensure a continuity of studies.
- The school will maintain appropriate contact with students during times in hospital, so as to provide social, emotional and academic support.
- The school will provide support for siblings and close friends of students with significant health needs as appropriate.
- The school will seek special equipment or facilities as required.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's five-year review cycle or as required. Ratified by B. Marrinon, August, 2013.