



## ENROLMENT POLICY

Latest DET Updates: 28/02/2018

First Developed in This Format: March 2018

### Rationale

- Children of school age have the right to be enrolled at and admitted to their designated neighbourhood government school at the beginning of the school year unless an approved alternative placement has been arranged.
- Where there are insufficient places at a school for all children who seek entry, children are enrolled in the following priority order:
  - Children for whom the school is the designated neighbourhood school.
  - Children with a sibling at the same permanent address who are attending the school at the same time.
  - Where the Regional Director has restricted the enrolment, children who reside nearest the school.
  - Children seeking enrolment on specific curriculum grounds.
  - All other children in order of closeness of their home to the school.
  - In exceptional circumstances, compassionate grounds.
- Appeals are considered based on the following Department placement principles:
  - provide each child with a place in the designated neighbourhood school
  - provide parents/carers with an opportunity to enrol their child at the same school as an older sibling who resides at the same address
  - allow parents/carers to send their child to any alternative school where space is available
  - contain enrolments in each school within the limits of available resources as determined by the Regional Director
- The Regional Director has the authority to effect placement of children.
- Enrolment can be arranged by the Principal without further approval or by reference to the Regional Director e.g. for early age enrolment.
- At initial enrolment a Victorian Student Number (VSN) is allocated to a child in the name certified in admission documents. When children transfer between schools, the subsequent enrolment is in the name attached to the VSN, unless new legal documentation with an amended name is provided.

### Purpose

- To ensure Alphington Primary School enrolls eligible children, maintains enrolment data and discharges its custodial role.
- To ensure the school complies with DET enrolment policy and guidelines.
- To ensure the school complies with the legislative requirements of the
  - *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*
  - *Privacy Act*
  - *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* and
  - *Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009*

### Definition

The designated neighbourhood school is the school that is nearest the child's permanent residence, unless the Regional Director needs to restrict new enrolments at a school or has designated the

neighbourhood boundaries for the school. Each campus of a multi-campus school has its own designated neighbourhood.

### **Implementation**

- The school has developed the mandatory pre-requisite Admission Policy.
- The school will:
  - enrol eligible children who are new to the Victorian government school system under the name contained in the documents supporting their admission; primarily their birth certificate
  - keep copies of sighted documents including an immunisation status certificate
  - verify any changes to student enrolment names
  - maintain and update student details obtained on enrolment
  - keep all information confidential and managed in accordance with DET's privacy policy and Victorian privacy laws
- Data is:
  - confirmed/updated and signed by the parent/carer when children transfer
  - updated when changes occur, such as guardianship
  - reviewed half yearly, specifically parent/carer contact information, see: [CASES21 Administration User Guide](#) for guidance including processes for generating the Student Enrolment Information Form and Student Information Full Details Report, , see: [CASES21](#)
  - revised annually for State and Commonwealth reporting
  - updated when informed by parents/carers of changes to family circumstances
- If requested, the school can change the name under which a child is enrolled if new legal documentation with an amended name is provided, such as an officially amended birth certificate, proof of adoption, court order authorising another name, supporting documentation, which was not originally available, differs from the name provided during conditional enrolment or proof is provided that the enrolling parent/carer or the child is using another name under a scheme designed to ensure their safety, such as witness protection.  
Note: The majority of children enrolled prior to 2009, with names different from those appearing on their birth certificate due to previous Department policy; can continue to be enrolled in these names.
- The school will:
  - ensure that their staff understand why SFOE data is needed and the benefits of ensuring there are no errors in data logged on Cases21
  - clearly explain to parents the importance of correctly completing the parent information form
  - regularly seek whole school updates
  - contact parents when occupation and/or education data needs to be queried.
- The school will maintain an enrolment database on CASES21 which includes admission forms, transfer information, the register, and class lists. Enrolment data is entered at the beginning of the year for Foundation (Prep) and is added when children transfer and updated if information changes.
- The school will check and retain the immunisation status certificate which indicates whether primary children have been immunised against some or all of a number of infectious diseases.  
**Note:** In accordance with amendments to 'No Jab No Play' legislation, as of 28 February 2018 only the Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register is acceptable for the purposes of enrolling in a primary school in Victoria. Sighting of the stamped immunisation booklet or documents produced by GPs or other immunisation providers are not sufficient evidence to meet this requirement. The immunisation status of the student must be recorded on CASES21 (whether an Immunisation History Statement has been received or not) and updated when necessary.

- The school will maintain a file containing immunisation certificates. This will be referred to if there is an outbreak of disease or if the child transfers in which case it will be attached to the transfer form.
- Parents/carers of children not immunised to keep their children at home for the recommended period, as outlined in the Department of Health's School exclusion table, see: [Immunisation](#).
- Where children are moving from one government school to another government school, enrolment data can be transferred using CASES21 (mandatory from July 2017) and:
  - parents/carers are not required to complete a new enrolment form if data is transferred using CASES21
  - schools must not create a new record in CASES21 – this will create a duplicate record
  - schools are required to send a copy of the Student Enrolment Information Form to the parent/carer for checking, updating and signing to ensure data is current and accurate.
- The school will request the parent/carer to complete a head lice consent form. Please refer to the *Head Lice Management Policy*.
- If the school enrolls international children CASES21 will be updated to confirm the child's commencement of study within five working days of commencement. Any changes to the child's enrolment should also be recorded in a timely manner. This will ensure an accurate disbursement of funds to the relevant school.
- Records will be disposed of in accordance with the General Disposal Schedule. See: [Archives and Records Management](#)
- Please refer also the school's *Admission Policy*, *Privacy Policy*, the *Health Care Needs Policy*.

### **Evaluation**

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's review cycle or if guidelines change (latest DET update late February 2018).

This policy was ratified by School Council in October 2018

Reference:

[www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/pages/enrolment.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/pages/enrolment.aspx)