



**St Mary's
Primary School**
Casino NSW

Together in Faith and Charity

Enrolment Policy

At St Mary's Primary School, Casino, we do whatever it takes to lead the way in **Love, **Learning**, **Faith**, **School Spirit**, **Sport** and **Community**!**

Reviewed September 2018

Rationale

Parish schools were established as places of educational excellence and places that transmit the faith, in the mission entrusted to the Church by our Lord Jesus Christ. They form part of a tradition of Catholic education provided by religious and lay teachers in the Diocese of Lismore for 150 years. They also fulfil parents' rights to choose the schooling for their children which reflects their own faith, values, beliefs and hopes.

Catholic schools have a particular responsibility to provide a Catholic religious education to children baptised in the Catholic faith and to support parents in honouring the commitments that they made on behalf of their children at baptism.

The Catholic school is also "open to all who want to share its educational and faith goals inspired by Christian principles" (Congregatio de Institutione Catholica 2009). Most importantly, there is a special place in parish schools for those with the greatest need, especially in areas of lesser educational options or lower socio economic circumstances, and efforts should be made

Value Base

The beliefs which underpin the enrolment policy of St Mary's Primary School, Casino are:

- Faith in Jesus Christ and commitment to the Catholic Church.
- A commitment to support each student to grow into their Baptismal responsibilities and faith development.
- A focus on the development of the whole child in order to achieve 'the fullness of life'.
- Respect for the dignity of each person.
- Respect for parents as the primary educators of their children.
- Promotion of the Home/School/Parish partnership to build an educational and religious community.
- Recognition of Catholic education as a call to service.
- Support for Catholic teaching and learning as revealed by God through scripture and tradition.

St Mary's Primary School, Casino, is a Christian community centred on the person of Christ. It will provide an environment in which the children will develop spiritually, intellectually socially, emotionally, and physically in order to become productive and successful members of society.

St Mary's Primary School is committed to the vision of 'doing whatever it takes to lead the way in Love, Learning, Faith, School Spirit, Sport and Community'.

Aims

Education in the Diocese of Lismore commits to the following aims:

- Supporting the living and transmission of the Catholic faith at all levels of parish school life with enthusiasm and a sense of vocation.
- Nurturing each individual student's growth in faith and unique potential and gifts. This occurs to enable a 'fullness of life' through Jesus Christ and his teaching (John 10:10).
- Offering excellence in educational opportunities founded on the mission of Jesus Christ articulated in Catholic Education in the Diocese of Lismore: Foundational Values for Catholic Identity and Mission. • Fostering strong parent partnerships and engagement.
- Creating Christ centred and pastorally caring communities who respect and nurture each other, the wider society and the world, according to the teaching of Jesus.
- Parents are invited to enrol in the parish school in full knowledge of the expectations around the Catholic Faith and the teachings, beliefs and practices of the Catholic Church. In essence, the parish remains at the 'centre' of parish school.

Children who turn five years of age on or before the 31st July during the year of enrolment to Kindergarten may be admitted provided they meet the requirements of the Parish School Enrolment Policy.

Enrolment Procedures

The following procedures will take place at St Mary's Primary School on the enrolment of a student:

- The enrolment period will be advertised at the appropriate time in the wider media and Parish.
- Enrolment forms will be provided to interested parents.
- Application for Enrolment forms must be fully completed and required documentation handed in prior to interview.
- All families who seek enrolment for their children will be interviewed by the Principal or Assistant Principal.
- Prior to transfer of a student from one Catholic school to another, discussion between Principals will occur.
- Enrolment of students other than Catholic will be in accordance with the order of preference as stated in the School Enrolment Policy.
- Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing. Appeals against the decision should be made to the Principal.
- St Mary's Primary School will conduct an orientation for new students as part of the enrolment process.

- Non-payment of school fees in a previous Catholic school needs to be considered for all new enrolment applicants.

Order of Preference for Enrolment

All enrolments will be at the discretion of the Principal and the Parish Priest, using the following guidelines for admission:

- Catholic families of the Parish who are known and involved members of the Parish.
- Catholic families of the Parish who participate irregularly in the life and worship of the Parish.
- Other than Catholic Families committed to a Christian denomination who seek a Catholic education and who currently have or have had children within the school.
- Other than Catholic families who are open to the spiritual and religious possibilities offered by a Catholic school.

All decisions of acceptance for enrolment will be at the discretion of the Principal in consultation with the Parish Priest.

Enrolment is dependent on the availability of appropriate classroom space and resources.

Additional Needs Requirements

In considering applications from students with additional needs or verified disabilities, schools are guided by the Diocesan Process for the Enrolment of Students with Special Needs. This requires that such applications must be referred to a Catholic Schools Office Regional Additional Needs Officer. Following the referral, consultation occurs with the Principal, parents and all other involved parties prior to a decision being made.