

# Enrolment and Attendance Policy and Procedures (NSW)

Section	Operations
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Version	8
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## Executive Summary:

The Anglican Schools Commission (ASC) seeks to assist Principals to manage the enrolment, inclusion, education and safety of students in a manner that is ethical, legal and consistent with the strategic direction of the ASC.

## Key Actions:

- All applications for enrolment must be accepted for processing.
- An application must be completed for each student.
- Maintain a register that records the immunisation status.
- Develop school-based enrolment and attendance process.
- The school-based process must be available on the school website.
- Schedule of Fees must be published on the school website.

**NB:** The list above is not exhaustive, and the Policy should be read in full to understand all obligations.

## **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1. The ASC has developed this Policy to assist Principals to manage the enrolment, inclusion, education and safety of students in a manner that is ethical, legal and consistent with the strategic direction of the ASC, and by doing so is supporting a consistent approach by all schools.

## **2. SCOPE**

- 2.1. This Policy applies to students who receive Commonwealth and State recurrent funding.

## **3. PRINCIPLES**

- 3.1. The vision for schools is that they fulfil the gospel imperative to teach and live the faith and nurture the young as centres of excellence in teaching and learning, pastoral care, worship and service.
- 3.2. ASC schools shall accept all application forms for enrolment for processing; however, the acceptance of an application form does not guarantee an enrolment interview or subsequent offer of enrolment.

**NB:** A Registration of Interest in Enrolment and an Application for Enrolment and Enrolment Agreement must be completed for each student.

- 3.3. The Principal or their representative will normally interview parent(s)/guardian(s) and the potential student prior to an offer of a place. Such interviews will give parent(s)/guardian(s) the opportunity to provide additional educational and personal information and to discuss the school's aims and policies.
- 3.4. Each school is responsible for developing and reviewing a school-based enrolment and attendance process which implements all aspects of the:
  - (1) ASC Registration of Interest in Enrolment Application; and
  - (2) ASC Application for Enrolment and Enrolment Agreement.
- 3.5. The school-based process must be available on the school website. The Principal/Business Manager, in conjunction with the School Council, is responsible for developing and approving the school's enrolment process, which will suit its particular requirements and reflect the uniqueness of their school community. The school process must address the following:
  - (1) Compliance with state and federal legislation for school enrolments;
  - (2) Compliance with the requirements of the Disability Standards in Education 2005:
    - Take reasonable steps to ensure that a prospective student is able to seek admission to, or apply for enrolment in, the school on the same basis as a prospective student without a disability, and without experiencing discrimination;
    - The decision whether or not to offer the student a place is treated on the same basis as a student without a disability, and without experiencing discrimination;
    - The Principal must consult with the prospective student about whether the disability affects the prospective student's ability to seek admission to or apply for enrolment at the school;
    - In light of the consultation, the Principal must consider the educational adjustments required for the student;
    - The Principal will make the final decision on enrolment, seeking legal advice and consulting with the ASC as appropriate; and

- The family must be informed of the final decision and the reason for the decision should an enrolment not be offered by the school.
- (3) Three distinct stages of enrolment – Application, Interview and Offer of Enrolment;
  - (4) Class size maxima as per the Multi-Enterprise Agreement (MEA) in NSW;
  - (5) Clarity on the enrolment factors that will be considered before an offer of a place at the school is made, such as:
    - Siblings of students already enrolled, or previously enrolled
    - Children of Anglican Clergy;
    - Children of former students;
    - Practising members of the Anglican Church;
    - Date of application;
    - Individual family circumstances;
    - Outcome of the interview process; and
    - Children of parent(s)/guardian(s) who indicate a willingness to support the Anglican ethos of the school.
  - (6) Ensuring that current and up to date immunisation records are requested and retained; **(Refer to Appendix 1)**  
**NB:** There are by law, mandatory requirements for enrolment of kindergarten students at ASC schools.
  - (7) Ensuring that a Schedule of fees and payment policy is made available to parent(s)/guardian(s) and is published on the school website;
  - (8) Ensuring that parental obligations are clearly communicated and accepted – Terms and Conditions of Enrolment;
  - (9) Compliance with the requirements of the National Privacy Principles (NPPs) as contained in the Commonwealth Privacy Act and documented in the School Privacy Policy;
  - (10) Ensuring that personal details of students remain up to date;
  - (11) Standardised attendance record keeping; and
  - (12) Notification of extended absence or regular non-attendance.

#### **4. PROCEDURES**

##### **4.1 Enrolment - Stages of Enrolment**

There are at least three distinct stages in the enrolment process:

###### **Stage 1: Application – Register of Interest in Enrolment**

- (1) An enrolment form must be completed in full for each student.
- (2) All supporting documentation must be obtained, namely:
  - Students birth certificate.
  - Students most recent school report.
  - Students NAPLAN (National testing) test results from current or previous schools.

- Pre-enrolment information – related documents and/or reports (e.g., Assessments, Specialist reports etc.).
  - Visa and/or temporary/permanent residency documents and passport (these are required if a student does not have an Australian Birth Certificate).
  - Non-refundable Application Fee (per Schedule of Fees).
  - Current and up to date immunisation records (**refer to Appendix 1**);  
**NB:** There are by law, mandatory requirements for enrolment of and kindergarten students at ASC schools.
  - Details of any condition of the student that may call for special steps to be taken for the benefit or protection of the student or other persons in the school (medication, physical, cognitive, learning).
- (3) The information provided on the application form will be confirmed and missing or additional information requested.

### **Stage 2: Pre-enrolment Interview**

- (1) Prior to a student being offered a place at the school, prospective students and their parent(s)/guardian(s) will be invited to an interview. This will happen sometime during the year prior to commencement of the prospective student's education.
- (2) During the interview, the Principal or delegate will discuss educational matters, academic, social development and support for Anglican ethos. An invitation may be offered to attend a brief tour of the school.
- (3) The Principal or delegate will take interview notes before making a recommendation in respect of enrolment.

### **Stage 3: Offer of Enrolment**

- (1) Once the school is satisfied that it has all the information it requires, the parent(s)/guardian(s) will be offered a place at the school for their child and a formal Letter of Offer will be provided.
- (2) To confirm the offer of a place, an Application for Enrolment and Enrolment Agreement must be completed, signed and returned with all required documentation and a non-refundable deposit fee.
- (3) Information regarding the school's fees schedule must be available on the school website.

## **4.2 Enrolment Register**

- (1) An enrolment register must be maintained and contain the following:
  - Name of the student;
  - Date of birth of the student;
  - Address of student;
  - Name and contact telephone number of parent(s)/guardian(s);
  - Student number;
  - Date of enrolment of the student;
  - Medicare number (if student has one);

- Date on which the enrolment ceases, the date of leaving the school and the student's destination (where applicable);
- Immunisation status:
  - a. Up to date; or (ii) Not up to date; and
  - b. Date of Certificate (No older than 2 months from the date of commencement/enrolment).

NB: in the case of students on visas and/or Overseas Students the correct entry on the Register would be under-vaccinated.

- For student's older than six (6) years, previous school or pre-enrolment situation.
  - Where the destination of a student below seventeen (17) years of age is unknown, evidence that a Department of Education officer with home school liaison responsibilities has been notified of the student's full name, date of birth, last known address, last date of attendance, parent(s)/guardian(s) names and contact details, an indication of possible destination, other information that may assist officers to locate the student, and any known work health and safety risks associated with contacting the parent(s)/guardian(s) or student.
- (2) A student must not be removed from the school register unless the Principal is aware that the:
- Student has enrolled in another school (in any state);
  - Student is home schooled;
  - Student is exempt from enrolling at school;
  - Basis for cancelling the enrolment is that the school has been provided with false information or not advised that this information is out of date;
  - The Minister for Education has authorised removal on the grounds that the whereabouts of the student is unknown.
- (3) The Principal must not cancel a student's enrolment without first:
- Giving written notice of the proposed cancellation, and reason for it, to the parents or guardian or students (if over 17); and
  - Giving reasonable opportunity to show why the enrolment should not be cancelled.
- (4) The Principal must be advised of any changes to student information such as residential address, restraining orders and special conditions needed.
- (5) The details contained within the register must be retained indefinitely or until advised otherwise by the ASC.
- (6) The register can be in electronic form but must be able to be reproduced in written form.
- (7) Enrolment records must be retained indefinitely, or until advised otherwise by the ASC.

### **4.3 Attendance**

4.3.1 A record of student attendance at school must be maintained and monitored.

### **4.4 Attendance Register**

4.4.1 The Principal must ensure that an attendance register is maintained.

4.4.2 The attendance register records are maintained for each student showing:

- Days of attendance;
- Absenteeism – full and partial days and authorised or unauthorised;
- Reason for absence; and
- Documentation to substantiate reason for absence

4.4.3 Attendance register must be in the approved format.

4.4.4 Attendance register may be kept in electronic form but must be capable of being reproduced in written form.

4.4.5 Copies of the information in the register of enrolment and the register of daily attendance should be stored off-site at regular intervals.

4.4.6 Attendance records must be retained indefinitely or until advised otherwise by the ASC.

### **4.5 Absences**

4.5.1 Parent(s)/guardian(s) are required to notify the school on or before the day of the student's absence.

4.5.2 Leave during term time must be made in writing by the parent(s)/guardian(s) prior to the absence.

4.5.3 An explanation for unexplained absences must be sought by the school.

4.5.4 Irregular attendance and/or absenteeism must be monitored, and the Principal notified of students at risk.

4.5.5 Schools must notify, in writing, any parent(s)/guardian(s) regarding a student's unsatisfactory school or class attendance.

4.5.6 Schools should have in place procedures to:

- monitor the daily attendance/absence of students;
- identify absences from school and/or class(es);
- follow up unexplained absences;
- notify parent(s)/guardian(s) regarding poor school and/or class attendance;
- transfer unsatisfactory attendance information to student files.

4.5.7 A record of a student's unsatisfactory attendance at school or classes should be placed on the student's file.

4.5.8 Principals must develop improvement strategies where students are absent for extended periods or unexplained attendance is below 90%.

### **4.6 Certificate of Exemption**

4.6.1 Students may be eligible for an exemption from attendance, and issued with a Certificate of Exemption, under the following grounds:

- i. Exceptional circumstances
- ii. Direction under the Public health Act 2010
- iii. Employment in the entertainment industry
- iv. Participation in elite arts or elite sporting events.

4.6.2 A *Student Exemption from Attendance Application Form*, available on SEQTA, must be completed. **NB:** not applicable for an exemption in cases of the student being prevented from attending school because of a direction under the Public Health Act 2010.

4.6.3 A Certificate of Exemption may be granted if it has been clearly demonstrated that the exemption is in the student's best interest in the short and long term and alternatives to exemption have been explored.

4.6.4 When considering granting a Certificate of Exemption, the Principal must ensure a risk assessment is completed to identify and manage any risks.

4.6.5 Where the exemption is not granted, procedural fairness must be accorded to the applicant. Applicants must be given an opportunity to respond through the Dispute and Complaint Resolution process.

4.6.6 The Principal must inform the parents of the decision in writing.

4.6.7 A Certificate of Exemption:

- i. will be given subject to conditions and limited to a period specified in the certificate.
- ii. may be cancelled by the Principal in certain circumstances where conditions attached to the exemption are not being met.

4.6.8 All documentation must be stored in the student's SEQTA profile.

#### **4.7 Records Retention**

4.7.1 The register of enrolments must be retained for a minimum period of five (5) years before archiving. The register of daily attendances must be retained for a period of seven (7) years after the last entry was made.

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Parental Obligations</b>	<b>School Obligations</b>
<p>Principals are required to request an Immunisation History Statement at enrolment.</p> <p><b>NB:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children must be <a href="#">fully immunised</a>, to attend kindergarten.</li> <li>Conscientious objection is not a valid exemption from immunisation requirements.</li> </ul>	<p>Provide to the school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) Immunisation History Statement - must be dated within two (2) months of the date of application for enrolment; or</li> <li>Evidence of medical reason not to be vaccinated (AIR Immunisation Medical Exemption Form); or</li> <li>AIR Immunisation History Form (if the child is on a catch-up schedule/sixteen (16) week grace period); or</li> <li>A valid immunisation certificate issued or declared by the Chief Health Officer; or</li> </ul>	<p>The Principal must ensure the school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an Immunisation History Statement at the time of a child’s enrolment; or</li> <li>evidence of medical reason not to be vaccinated (AIR Immunisation Medical Exemption Form); or</li> <li>AIR Immunisation History Form (if the child is on a catch-up schedule/sixteen (16) week grace period); or</li> <li>a valid immunisation certificate issued or declared by the Chief Health Officer; or</li> </ul> </li> <li>Retains the Immunisation History Statement for three (3) years after the child ceases to attend the school.</li> <li>Takes reasonable steps to obtain an up to date AIR Immunisation History Statement for children who are on a recognised/approved catch up schedule.</li> <li>Maintain a register that records the immunisation status and forms held for all enrolled children <b>(APPENDIX 2)</b>.</li> </ul>



Sample [School] Immunisation Register

Date of Enrolment	Student's First Name	Student's Surname	Date of Birth	Evidence Provided at Enrolment	Comments

### Version Control

Version	Date	Summary of Changes
1	May-08	New Policy
2	Oct-16	Update to reflect the requirement to request immunisation records.
3	Feb-18	Name change to ASC Enrolment and Attendance Policy and Procedures, inclusion of state specific requirements. Provide further information on enrolment and attendance obligations. General updates.
4	Feb-19	Updated in response to a legislative change to the School Education Regulations, to require all schools to record in the school's enrolment register, the vaccination status of all new students.
5	Aug-19	Updated in response to changes to VRQA Minimum Standards and Public Health Act 2016
6	Oct-19	Updated in response to recently amended non-government school registration standards (WA) for 2020.
7	Aug-22	Annual review  New format  Split Policy into state specific policies.  Reference to the approved Registration of Interest in Enrolment and an Application for Enrolment and Enrolment Agreement.
8	Mar-24	Include reference to Certificate of exemption.