You know your child best. Your ideas, opinions and input are important in mapping out the best possible learning journey and you are encouraged to participate actively in this process. All major decisions regarding your child are made in full consultation with you.

SUPPORT FROM THE CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE

The Students with Disabilities Team endeavours to assist Catholic schools communities to meet the true intent and spirit of Catholic Education in regard to the educational, spiritual, physical and social needs of students with disabilities.

Specialist consultants are available to support schools and families in the following ways:

- helping parents to find suitable school placements and assisting schools to assess their resources and skills in relation to particular student needs
- working with schools to ensure smooth entry to new schools for students with special needs
- providing schools with information on specific disabilities and supporting the training of school staff in teaching/management strategies for particular students or groups of students
- liaising with specialist agencies
- assisting schools to access funding and resources for students with special needs
- working with schools and parents to develop Individual Education Plans for students or to make curriculum modifications
- working with school staff and school boards to represent the needs of students with disabilities in school policy
- advocating on behalf of students with disabilities in the wider education community.

For more information please contact the Principal of your chosen school or the Team Leader of Students with Disabilities K-12.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
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PO Box 198, Leederville WA 6903
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Catholic school communities are committed to ensuring that all children receive the support they need to learn, grow and achieve at their highest potential.

This brochure provides a brief overview of the process of enrolling a child with a disability in a Catholic school in Western Australia.

ENROLMENT APPLICATIONS

Once you have decided which school you would like your child to attend, you need to complete the application for enrolment (available from the school) and request an interview with the Principal to talk to them about your child’s special needs, any current specialised learning program and support you are receiving from other agencies.

You may also wish to visit the school’s early childhood classes and special education centre if there is one.

All enrolments are subject to regular school enrolment criteria and processes.

YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO MAKE EARLY APPLICATION FOR ENROLMENT.

THE ENROLMENT PROCESS

After you have made an enrolment application, the school will contact you if they have an age-appropriate vacancy for your child. You will be invited to the school for an interview to further discuss the educational provision available at the school.

If your child requires additional resource assistance, it is the principal’s responsibility to apply for support through the appropriate channel at the Catholic Education Office.

You will need to provide the school with:

- documentation that verifies your child’s disability, signed by an accredited practitioner
- written permission for the release of documentation from other agencies.

If there is no place available you can talk to a consultant from the Students with Disabilities Team at the Catholic Education Office about alternative options.

TRANSITION

Once you have accepted a placement a meeting will be held to determine your child’s transition needs to ensure a smooth entry to the new school. Transition planning will cover all issues related to your child’s introduction to the new environment. This can include things like physical modifications to the environment, staff training and student introduction. The plan may also include observation of your child in a current educational or therapy setting.

School staff, families and Catholic Education Office staff will work together during the transition period to ensure that your child’s entry to school is as easy as possible.

CONTINUING SUPPORT

Your child will have an Individual Education Plan or Curriculum Adjustment Plan developed which will outline the school’s plan to provide special education services to his or her unique needs. It contains specific information about your child and is developed, implemented, monitored and evaluated by school staff, parents and, where appropriate, other service providers.