

## EDUCATION SUPPORT POLICY

*Marrara Christian College is a learning community where parents and staff partner together. Students are nurtured through a loving, biblically-based school curriculum and structure to build their faith, character and desire to serve.*

### PREAMBLE

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Each student is created in the image of God and therefore he or she has profound intrinsic value. All students, regardless of their gifts and abilities, need to know they are people of worth and value, respected as they are because they are God's creation (Psalm 139) and they are not more or less valued because of those freely given gifts (Rom 12:3).

At Marrara Christian College we believe all students should be able to access a broad and balanced education that will prepare them for effective participation in society. To this end we attempt to provide *an education that meets their individual, cultural, social, emotional, physical and intellectual needs as lifelong learners* within the limitation of resources. (Adapted from NT Revised Special Education Policy – Provision for Students with Disabilities and Impairments in Northern Territory Schools (2011))

We acknowledge that there are students with disabilities\*, learning differences\* and impairments\* within our school who need very specific support and additional resources in order to access and maximize their educational options and outcomes. We also acknowledge that some students are gifted in particular academic areas and benefit from challenges that extend them in academic level and experience.

(\*A disability is the type of limitation or lack of ability; as a result of impairment; to perform an activity within the range considered as normal. Impairment is a condition. It is the loss or abnormality of psychological, physiological or anatomical structure or function. A learning difference highlights a student who learns in a unique or unconventional manner.)

### POLICY

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At Marrara Christian College we believe that each child has individual and unique needs. Some children require more support than others if they are to achieve their full potential within the structural constraints of a school and we must recognize this and plan accordingly.

We acknowledge that a significant proportion of children will have special needs, both scaffolding and extending, at some time in their school career. Some will require help throughout their time in school, whilst others may need a little extra support for a short period to help overcome more temporary needs. We aim to supplement the mainstream education structure to provide all children with strategies for dealing with their needs in a supportive environment, and to give them meaningful access to the Curriculum.

In particular we aim to:

- acknowledge the unique abilities of each student by seeing their full potential through the eyes of Christ;

- ensure that all children, whatever their particular educational needs, receive appropriate educational provision. This includes a broad and balanced curriculum that is relevant and differentiated, and that demonstrates coherence and progression in learning;
- give children, with special education needs, opportunities to take part in aspects of the College's life and activities, as far as it is possible given the circumstance of the College;
- identify, assess, record and regularly review progress and needs as applicable in particular circumstances;
- involve parents/guardians in planning and supporting at all stages of their child's development;
- work collaboratively with parents, other professionals and support services;
- communicate the policies and implementation procedures of the Education Support Unit.

Parents, guardians and caregivers play an important role in keeping the College informed and up to date with tests, results and progress away from the College context. Failure to disclose information to the College may result in a revision of the enrolment of a child.

Decisions on enrolment and support are always dependant on the College's ability to meaningfully support a child.

## SCOPE

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The policy applies to the parents, staff and students of Marrara Christian College community.

### Review

- Date reviewed                      May 2016
- Council Approval                      May 2016
- Next review date                      May 2017 (Procedures to be added in next review)