



St Patrick's School Board of Trustees Enrolment and Cohort Entry Policy

St Patrick's School Board of Trustees is aware of its responsibility to comply with the maximum roll and number of non-preference students as stated and governed by the school's Integration Agreement with the Ministry of Education. The number of places available for non-preference students will be governed by the maximum allowable in the schools Integration Agreement which is 5% of the maximum roll.

Criteria for granting preference shall be determined by the Proprietor in accordance with the Integration Agreement for St Patrick's School and to Section 29 (1) of the Private Schools Conditional Integration Act 1975, which states that preference shall be given 'only to those children whose parents have established a particular or general religious connection with the Special Character of the school'.

The conditions for granting of preference are also stated in the 'Handbook for Boards of Trustees, Principals and Staff of New Zealand Catholic Integrated Schools', Part 5: Enrolment.

The interpretation of the agreement must consider the following:

- a) the nature of the church, which is essentially missionary and has special care for those who are deprived of God's word or of material resources;
- b) the importance of Religious Education;
- c) the responsibility of parents to educate their children into the community of the Faith
- d) the nature and purpose of a Catholic school.

St Patrick's School has adopted a cohort entry policy which refers to children starting school as a group, at the beginning of a term, as opposed to starting school on their fifth birthday. This is done in line with the requirements of the amended Education Act 1989.

Therefore at St Patrick's School:

- Students' start school at the beginning of the term closest to their fifth birthday. This is calculated on a mid-point between the first days of two consecutive terms.
- Students' whose fifth birthday is prior to the mid-term date can start school at the beginning of that term. If they turn five after the mid-term date, they would start the following term.
- Parents' have the choice of waiting for the next cohort entry point if they believe their child is not ready to start school. Once their child has enrolled at school they must attend school.
- Parents who choose not to start their child until the age of six must ensure they start school on their sixth birthday.
- Students' already enrolled at another school who move to St Patrick's do not have to wait for the next cohort intake.

Approved by Board on the 15th day of November 2017