MacKillop College

Policy: Learning Diversity

Introduction

MacKillop College strives to provide professionally delivered learning opportunities for all students and is committed to supporting the cognitive, social, emotional, sensory or physical development of all. Students' exhibit a range of talents, possess different learning styles and will progress at different rates along the developmental continuum, and MacKillop College supports such learning diversity in learning pathways offered.

Principles

Staff at MacKillop College are committed to:

- identifying areas of need and striving to improve the learning outcomes for students
- striving to identify students with learning difficulties, gifted students, talented students and those with disabilities as early as possible to ensure quality programming and learning outcomes are implemented for these students
- supporting subject teachers in their endeavour to adapt teaching styles, adjust programs and in some cases adjust curriculum
- providing support for staff via professional development opportunities, encouraging sharing of knowledge and expertise, experience, strategies and ideas for catering for individual differences
- providing specialist support staff to aid the classroom teacher in catering for individual differences and diversity
- supplying resources, environmental change (structural and social), and technical assistance to ensure students are supported in their learning

Provision of The Learning Support Team assists teachers in devising teaching and learning strategies to meet a wide range of educational needs and talents of students. The Learning Support Team assists staff in the identification of students with individual learning needs and consults with the student, parents/guardians, subject teachers, homeroom teachers and other staff deemed necessary in an endeavour to meet the needs of each individual student appropriately.

To allow for individual differences, the Learning Support Team provides strategic support for students with individualised utilisation from the following range of strategies:
- Individualised Learning Programs (ILP's)
- Program Support Groups (PSG's)
- Gifted and Talented programs (Julian Tenison Woods Program)
- Vocational Preparation Programs
- English as an Additional Language/Dialect (EALD) assistance
- tutoring programs
- Case Managers
- School counselling

Objectives

MacKillop College offers a broad and inclusive curriculum which caters for the needs of students, allowing them to develop their talents and achieve to their full potential. Individual differences are respected and valued with the students being offered a learning environment in which they can develop a healthy self-regard and confidence in their talents.

Implementation

i) Principal commitment

The principal is responsible for ensuring that:

- The objectives of this policy are integrated into practice
- Through consultation with the Deputy Principals evaluation of curriculum, development of appropriate programs and identification of groups who may be disadvantaged and consequently requiring additional needs, occurs

ii) Staff commitment

The staff are responsible for:

- liaising with the Learning Support Team to help identify the educational needs of each student and then deliver an unbiased curriculum using a range of teaching and learning strategies
- ensuring that MacKillop College students are treated with respect and learn to value individual differences and embrace diversity
- catering for individual differences by providing achievable and challenging learning outcomes and goals for students
- refining their teaching and learning processes as they understand more about how individual students develop their capabilities and learning styles
- documenting evidence of the ways in which they provide adjustment and support for the students they are working with

This policy works in conjunction with the following policies, procedures and guidelines

Learning and Teaching Policy
Student Wellbeing
Julian Tenison Woods Policy (Gifted and Talented)
Literacy and Numeracy Policy
NCCD (National Consistent Collection of Data)

Rory Kennedy   Date: 2018
(Principal)