



Ascot Vale West Primary School

The School strives to ensure that our students will become responsible, motivated, life-long learners who can confidently face future challenges.

Program for Students with Disabilities Policy

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to support and improve the learning outcomes for all Students with Disabilities and students identified with additional needs. The Disability Standards for Education 2005 clarifies the obligations on state government schools and the right of students under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992.

Students with additional needs have a right to attend a mainstream, government school and to have their programs tailored to meet their individual requirements.

OBJECTIVE

Ascot Vale West Primary School aims to:

- Provide students access to the school's curriculum and learning opportunities that cater to their individual needs
- Support the access and participation of students in an inclusive education system
- Support transitions for students entering school, through the primary years and into their secondary schooling
- Support students with moderate to high needs, under the Program for Students with Disabilities (PSD) who meet the eligibility criteria under the following categories:
 - Physical disability
 - Visual impairments
 - Hearing impairments
 - Severe behaviour disorder
 - Intellectual disability
 - Autism Spectrum Disorder
 - Severe language disorder and critical educational needs

DEFINITIONS

PSD – The Program for Students with Disabilities is a targeted supplementary funding program for Victorian government schools. It provides resources to schools to support the provision of school-based educational programs for a defined population of students with disabilities, with moderate to high needs. Under the program, resources are provided directly to Victorian government schools to support the provision of school-based educational programs for eligible students with disabilities.

SSSO – Student Support Services Officers comprise of a broad range of professionals including psychologists, guidance officers, speech pathologists, social workers and visiting teachers. Student Support Services Officers work as part of an integrated health and wellbeing team within networks of schools, focusing on providing group-based and individual support, workforce capacity building and the provision of specialised services.

SOG – Student Support Group Meetings (SSG) – A collaboration between teachers, students, parents/guardian/carer(s), education and health professionals to develop agreed understandings and responses to a student's behaviours, needs, communication skills and learning needs. Each meeting will consist of the parents/carers, Assistant Principal, classroom teacher and Education Support staff member or other invited members such as external agencies.

ILP – Individual Learning Plan are created with input from the student, parent/guardian, classroom teacher and invited external agencies. An ILP sets educational achievable goals for the student which builds upon strengths and skills. ILPs are developed each term, monitored and evaluated at each SSG meeting.

Students with Additional Needs – Those students who are not deemed eligible for funding under the PSD program, but who are identified by the school as requiring additional support and or educational adjustments. A reasonable adjustment is measure or action taken to help a student with additional needs to participate in education on the same basis as other students. Adjustments can be made across the whole school setting (such as ramps into buildings), in the classroom such as adapting class lessons and at

an individual student level such as extra tuition for a student with learning difficulties. Schools are required to make reasonable adjustments for students with disability under the Disability Standards for Education 2005. DET – Department of Education and Training

Implementation:

The Assistant Principal is responsible for the coordination of student wellbeing, inclusive of the Program for Students with Disabilities.

Duties Include:

- Coordination of applications for PSD funding
- Coordination of Student Support Group meetings
- Establishment of individual students' goals and strategies within a Student Management Plan in consultation with the student (where applicable) teachers, parents, ES and when required SSSO Officers or external agencies.
- Management of ES Staff including timetabling, daily work schedules, fortnightly professional learning and overall staff development and performance
- Management of the PSD budget
- Coordinate of the SSSO. Liaise with the DET Psychologist and Speech Pathologist on a fortnightly basis
- Uploading cases onto the Student online Case System (SOCS) website. All students with additional needs can be referred to the service after consultation with SSSO and parental permission is sought.

Curriculum programs will be inclusive of all students

The school will abide by all DET timelines when submitting applications for funding under the Program for Students with Disabilities.

An SSG meeting is held a minimum of once a term for students on the PSD program and students with additional needs.

- Minutes of the meeting are recorded and forwarded in a timely manner onto families and or relevant therapists if required, accompanied by the ILP.
- The SSG process is fully explained to all concerned parties and all requirements are followed as per DET SSG Guidelines
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/health/Pages/oohcstusupp.aspx>
- The SSG meetings ensure that those with the most knowledge of, and responsibility for the student, work together to establish shared goals for the student's educational future, plan reasonable adjustments for the student to access the curriculum, provide educational planning that is ongoing throughout the student's life and monitor the progress of the student.
- The school will provide an appropriate space for the SSSO to work with students, consult with parents/carers, staff and complete a range of assessments in privacy.

Links

Key links which are connected to this policy are:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/studentmanagement/transitions/Pages/transdisability.aspx>