Early enrolment of students

Purpose

This policy provides direction to schools regarding the early enrolment of children in the year they commence Prep or Year One.

Policy

To be eligible for admission to Prep, children are required to be 5 years of age by June 30 in the year they commence Prep. To be eligible for admission to enter Year One children are required to be 6 years of age by the 30th June in the year they commence Year One.

Only students previously enrolled and who have evidence of participation in a Preparatory equivalent program, either interstate or overseas, and who demonstrate advanced developmental readiness may seek early enrolment in the Preparatory year.

No child shall be enrolled in a diocesan primary school before the prescribed age of entry without reference to the Executive Director and the adherence to the steps outlined below in Consequences.

Rationale

The decision to enrol a child in school prior to the attainment of normal entry age can have lasting consequences for his or her future academic, social emotional and psychological well-being.

Readiness for formal schooling is not merely a matter of academic ability, but a wide range of other relevant factors which determine the likelihood of a child achieving success at school.

Consequences

During any monitoring period parents and teachers should exchange information on a continuing basis to ensure all aspects of the child’s development are being considered.

Early entry, if approved, should occur at natural entry points such as the start of the school year.

The following steps should be followed in processing applications for early enrolment:

1. Parents approach school Principal, who provides them with information on procedures associated with early entry to school.
2. Parents seek a professional assessment by a qualified educational psychologist, for evidence that supports readiness to enter the year level early.
3. Parents prepare a written application to the Principal outlining their case for early entry and attach the appropriate developmental evidence.
4. Principal and parents meet to discuss Developmental report and application.
5. Parents apply in writing to the Executive Director requesting early entry for their child. This application must be co-signed by the Principal.
6. The Executive Director in consultation with appropriate others, makes a final judgement.
7. Parents receive counselling from the Principal re the final decision.
8. The Principal will review the child’s placement after 4-6 weeks of monitoring and consultation with teachers, as well as observation in a variety of school related contexts. The results of this review will be discussed with parents

Reflection
n/a

See also (Related Policies and Guidelines)
Policy: Enrolment of students in Catholic schools