



Catholic Education
Diocese of Cairns
*Learning with Faith
and Vision*

Policy

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Overseas students

Purpose

This policy provides guidance to schools in the management of opportunities for overseas students. This will include sponsored or short stay study tours, student exchange programs, and provision for full fee-paying students.

Policy

Catholic Education Services in the Diocese of Cairns will make provision for the education of overseas students in a process which seeks to address the needs of these students. Where a Catholic school enrolls overseas students, the education of these students should be seen as an integral part of the educational program of the school in which the social, cultural and spiritual needs of students are addressed.

Rationale

Historically, Catholic schools have attracted students from overseas countries because of the quality education on offer and the pastoral ministry evident in Catholic schools.

Catholic boarding schools have offered placement to overseas students for many years and have generally found this involvement to be a mutually beneficial experience. The education of overseas students is the provision of education, in Australia, to students on student or tourist visas. Such provision can provide a rewarding cultural and social dimension, complementing the trend toward a global perspective in education.

Participation in the international exchange of information and ideas is a contribution Catholic education can make to international fellowship and the evangelising mission of the Church.

Recognising that the mission of the Australian Church is not confined to Australian residents, Catholic Education Services seek to assist with the provision of opportunities for quality Catholic education in a range of educational activities that extend opportunities for international exchange.

Within the framework of this position statement, a number of options are available to Catholic schools. Schools are encouraged to sponsor or host short-stay study tours, make opportunities available to students for exchange and consider enrolling full fee-paying overseas students.

The policy recognises that life-long Catholic education offers opportunities for Christ-like personal transformations that include:

- Recognition of oneself as a citizen of the global village;
- Bonding with all people – a care for them as neighbours;
- Appreciation of diversity and a willingness to learn from other cultures;
- Cherishing one's roots yet transcending parochialism;
- Openness to and inclusion of all who seek the values of Catholic education.

Catholic education in Queensland seeks to foster respect for other religious traditions, readying people for dialogue with a diversity of people, including the poor and the marginalised.

Consequences

When implementing this position statement as part of the mission of Catholic education, Catholic Education Services will give attention to:

General

- Monitoring the objectives that would be achieved by increased involvement in the education of overseas students and how this would complement the mission of Catholic education;
- Ensuring support is available within schools for the pastoral and learning needs of overseas students (English language, cultural understanding, etc.);
- Establishing arrangements for professional development for staff to understand the purpose of international enrolments and ways to meet effectively students' needs in the classroom without compromising the quality of education for local students;
- Establishing a range of duty of care responsibilities including those relating to interpreters, accommodation arrangements, guardianship requirements, parent and student information, behavioural expectations and sanctions, registration and investigation of student complaints and quality control;
- Providing arrangements for the preparation of students and parents regarding the purpose of international enrolments, and understanding the needs of overseas students, especially if they will be staying in family homes.

Full Fee-Paying Overseas Students

- Establishing provisions to source enrolments;
- Ensuring that core values and identity are not compromised;
- Monitoring the necessary registrations and administration arrangements for compliance with State and Federal legislation;
- Establishing arrangements for screening students on English language level before enrolment is accepted;
- Determining arrangements for English language tuition, especially for those who arrive with beginner or elementary levels of English;
- Organising training to ensure staff, teaching and administration, know the requirements of the *Education Services for Overseas Students Act*, so that they can identify and respond to non-compliance, and report persistent non-compliance as soon as it becomes evident;
- Determining the responsibility for setting an overall schedule of charges.

Study Tours and Exchange

- Determining the separate and distinct educational issues relating to study tours, exchange students and full-time overseas students;
- Encouraging "sister school" relationships to source study tours;
- Establishing partnerships in Australia with, for example, English Language Colleges which routinely bring school-age study tours to Australia;
- Taking steps to ensure that the stability and integrity of education programs in schools and individual classrooms is maintained when groups of non-English speaking students will be participating in classroom programs;

- Ensuring both study tour and local students benefit from the experience of a study tour group visiting a local school.

Reflection

See also (Related Policies and Guidelines)

Guideline/Procedure: Enrolment Procedures for Overseas Students (Developed with acknowledgement to Brisbane Catholic Education)