

Our Commitment

Catholic schools in the Cairns Diocese are committed to fostering cultures of inclusion that respond to the educational needs of students regardless of their abilities, backgrounds and aspirations.

Our school communities are places where the uniqueness and individuality of students and families is recognised and welcomed.

This commitment to inclusive practices is supportive of both Catholic Church teaching and legislative requirements.

Creating communities that...

✓ Reflect

We are hope-filled searchers of truth

✓ Respect

We honour the sacred dignity of each person appreciating difference and diversity

✓ Embrace

We engage deeply in life

✓ Connect

We are people of kinship, earth and Spirit

Linking with others

School communities have access to Catholic Education's Inclusive Education Consultants, teachers, speech language pathologists, psychologists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, learning support teachers, student counsellors and First Nations Consultants. School communities also collaborate with a range of external agencies to enhance support of the individual needs of students.



INCLUSION in Catholic school communities

Working together, including all

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



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

Working together, including all

Core values

Inclusive practices are fundamental to the ethos of Catholic schools and are based on the provision of an educational environment that promotes the human dignity of each student. At the heart of Catholic belief is that every human being is unique and made in the image of God, possesses unique gifts which should be developed, and should be treated with respect and dignity. Our schools strive to be welcoming to all who seek to share their life.

*"An education in the fullness of humanity should be the defining feature of Catholic schools".**

Inclusive practices

Inclusive practices value the diversity of students, recognise their rights, provide equitable access and work towards meeting the educational needs of all students within a supportive Christian community. The policies and procedures of Catholic schools are guided by Catholic Education's Inclusive Practices Policy. This policy can be found on the Catholic Education website at www.cns.catholic.edu.au

Supporting students

Our inclusive school communities support students with diverse needs by:

- Working together with families and school community members
- Making personalised adjustments and creating pathways and options for students.
- Team planning to help achieve goals

Enrolment Support and Transitions:

Enrolment Application and Support Procedure (EASP)

The Enrolment Application and Support Procedure (EASP) reflects the ongoing commitment of Catholic Education – Diocese of Cairns towards inclusive practices in schools and is guided by the principles of justice as reflected in Catholic Church teachings, education, and legal areas.

The EASP may be used to support the enrolment of students who have been identified as having diverse needs (e.g. students with a disability, identified as gifted, requiring significant educational adjustments, EAL/D (English as an additional language or dialect).

The EASP is a partnership between the student, their family and the enrolling school. It aims to clarify the needs of the student so that reasonable adjustments are considered and planned for prior to a student's commencement. The consultation process seeks to reveal and clarify:

- The characteristics of the learner including functional impact of a disability
- The educational adjustments that are required for learning
- The implications of adjustments

An EASP may occur when a student who has significant educational adjustments has to move from or into a new educational setting. This may include when students are moving:

- Into prep
- From one year level to another
- From one phase of learning to another
- From primary to secondary school, or
- To prepare for the most appropriate career pathway throughout life

Before a transition process commences, parents are encouraged to take time to visit all possible educational settings when considering a placement for a student requiring significant educational adjustments. The EASP is one way of collaboratively identifying the support and personnel required to make the transition as smooth as possible.

Enrolment

We welcome enquiries regarding your child's schooling needs. Please contact the school where you wish to enrol your child. Contact details of all our schools can be found at www.cns.catholic.edu.au

