



Enrolment Policy – Coraki Public School

Legal Context

The government school system in New South Wales exists to provide high quality education for all students. The *Education Reform Act 1990* outlines the objects of education and the legal requirements for compulsory schooling.

In brief, the legislation requires students between the ages of six and fifteen to be enrolled at a government or registered non-government school, and to attend school on each day that instruction is provided or to be registered for home-schooling. It is the duty of the parent or carer of the student to ensure that these obligations are fulfilled.

General Principles Governing Enrolment

- A student is considered to be enrolled when he or she is placed on the admission register of a school.
- A student should be enrolled in one school only at any given time.
- Children are entitled to be enrolled at the government school that is designated for the intake area within which the child's home is situated and that the child is eligible to attend.
- Parents may seek to enrol their child in the school of their choice.
- School local areas are determined by the Department of Education and Training through a process involving consultation between the Properties Directorate and the School Education Director.
- Schools are required to set an enrolment number to cater for anticipated local demand and to seek to ensure that every eligible local child has a place at his or her local school if he or she chooses to attend it
- Schools are required to have a written policy which states the grounds on which non-local enrolments will be accepted.
- The primary criteria for acceptance of non-local enrolments will include the availability of appropriate staff and permanent classroom accommodation.

The decision on where to enrol a student, and with what level of support, will depend on a number of factors, including a student's educational needs, the expressed desires of parents and caregivers, the capacity of the system to provide the level of support services required generally and at a particular location and the availability of support services at alternative locations.

Our enrolment Ceiling

The number of students that school can accommodate is dependent on the physical classrooms available.

The enrolment ceiling for:

- Kindergarten is 20 students per class
- Year 1 is 22 students per class
- Year 2 is 24 students per class
- Year 3-6 is 30 students per class

Accordingly, Coraki PS can hold a maximum of 156 students K-6.

Enrolment Buffer

No additional accommodation (permanent or demountable) will be provided to cater for increased enrolments resulting from non-local placements.

Within the enrolment ceiling, a buffer will be determined to accommodate local students arriving throughout the year.

Placement Panels

In schools where demand for non-local places exceeds availability, the school will establish a placement panel to consider and make recommendations on all non-local enrolment applications. The composition of the panel is to be determined locally but must include at least one staff member, other than the principal, and one school community member nominated by the school's parent organisation. The panel will be chaired by the principal who will have a casting vote.

The development of criteria for the enrolment of non-local students will be the responsibility of the placement panel.

In assessing the application of the criteria to individual cases, the panel will consider only those matters presented on the application form and not oral or other submissions. The decisions made by the placement panel must be made within the context of the agreed enrolment ceiling and the buffer retained for local students

arriving later in the year. The placement panel should record all decisions and minutes of meetings are to be available on request by the school education director.

Criteria for Non-local Enrolment Applications

Criteria includes factors such as (criteria are not listed in a priority order):

- Proximity and access to the school
- Siblings already enrolled at the school
- Medical reasons
- Safety and supervision of the student before and after school
- Special interests and abilities
- Compassionate circumstances
- Structure and organisation of the school.

The principal will ensure that the established criteria are applied equitably to all applicants. Parents should be provided with an explanation of the decisions of the placement panel in writing, should they request it.

Waiting Lists

Waiting lists may be established for non-local students. Parents should be advised in writing if their child is to be placed on a waiting list and his or her position on it. The size of the waiting list should reflect realistic expectations of potential vacancies.

Waiting lists are current for one year.

Appeals

Where a parent wants to appeal against the decision of the panel, the appeal should be made in writing.

The Principal shall attempt to resolve the matter at a local level.

If the matter is not resolved at the local level the school education director will consider the appeal and make a determination. The school education director will consult with the relevant principals and school communities as necessary.

The purpose of the appeal is to determine whether the stated criteria have been applied fairly.

Kindergarten Enrolment

The principal will advise the parent body and the school community of the enrolment arrangements for the next year's Kindergarten children, including the policy on immunisation. Advice will generally be provided through the newsletter and P & C meeting.

Children may enrol in Kindergarten at the beginning of the school year if they turn five years of age on or before 31 July in that year.

Documentation providing proof of age, such as a birth certificate or passport, is required on enrolment. The enrolment of eligible children in the Kindergarten year is to commence within the first week of the school year.

Enrolments of Students with Special Learning Needs

Students with Disabilities

The Department of Education and Communities provides a range of services and resources to support the education of students with disabilities. These include:

- Targeted funding, specialist teachers and consultancy services to support students enrolled in regular classes
- Special classes within regular schools
- Special schools
- Modifications to buildings to facilitate access
- Provision of specialised equipment and technology
- Special transport services.

When considering the enrolment of a student with a disability, all these provisions should be considered.

The decision on where to enrol a student with a disability, and with what level of support there will be for that student, will depend on a number of factors, including

- the student's educational needs,
- the expressed desires of parents and caregivers,
- the capacity of the system to provide the level of support services required generally and at a particular location and

- the availability of support services at alternate locations.

In many situations it will be possible to enrol a student with a disability at the desired school with the necessary level of specialist support. In some circumstances the level of support required, or the specialist nature of that support, will necessitate alternative enrolment options being provided.

In each case, when a student with a disability presents for enrolment, it is the responsibility of the principal to ensure that an appraisal of the student's educational needs is carried out. For some students appraisal will have occurred as part of a planned transition process. For others, the appraisal will take place at the time enrolment is sought.

Appraisals will involve parents or caregivers and will entail consideration of the student's support needs in areas such as curriculum, mobility, social skills, personal care and communication. It will often involve consideration of supporting documentation from medical practitioners and other health and education professionals. District special education consultants are available to assist in this process, in particular, to identify the resources which may be available to support the enrolment. Requests for placement at special classes or schools are determined at local placement panel.

Refusal of Enrolment

Principals may refuse enrolment of a student on the grounds of previously documented violent behaviour if there is evidence that the student has not learned the appropriate skills to manage this behaviour.