1.0 INTRODUCTION

Catholic schools participate in the evangelising mission of the Church which Jesus gave to his apostles when he told them: “Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you.” 1

Catholic children have, by baptism, a right to a Catholic education. 2 Therefore Catholic schools give priority to children baptized as Catholics. They also support parents who seek a Catholic education for their children. 3

It is from its Catholic Identity that the school derives its fundamental characteristics and structure as a genuine instrument of the Church.

2.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide clarity of processes and procedures for parents seeking to enrol their children in Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Sale. When considering the enrolment of students into their schools, authorities need to apply the principles and procedures contained within this document.

3.0 PRINCIPLES:

3.1 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Sale strive to be authentically Catholic and faithful to the tradition and teachings of the Church.

3.2 The Catholic school is a community whose mission is to provide its members with a holistic education which takes place in an environment formed by the teachings and values Christ gave us in the Gospels.

3.3 The Catholic school community strives for strong partnerships with the parish/parishes it serves.

3.4 Families who choose a Catholic school for their children do so on the understanding that they respect and agree to support the Catholic identity, ethos and mission of the school and acknowledge the importance of religious education for their children. Families who have demonstrated an unwillingness to do so may be refused enrolment at the school.

3.5 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Sale have a particular responsibility to welcome, accept and support those who are poor, marginalised and in most need. No student will be refused enrolment or be disadvantaged because of an inability on the part of parents/guardians to meet financial requirements. 4

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1 Mt. 28:19
2 Since Christ’s faithful are called by baptism to lead a life in harmony with the gospel teaching, they have the right to a Christian education, which genuinely teaches them to strive for the maturity of the human person and at the same time to know and live the mystery of salvation. Code of Canon Law, Canon 217.
3 Code of Canon Law, Canon 797
4 Ecclesia in Oceania, No. 33
3.6 Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Sale have a responsibility to ensure that the requirements of State and Commonwealth legislation are met when processing enrolments.

3.7 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Sale have a responsibility to promote enrolment in Catholic primary and secondary schools.

4.0 PROCEDURES

School authorities manage local enrolment processes and procedures in a manner consistent with the principles articulated above. Further procedures/guidelines for schools are as follows:

4.1 Each school will develop and publish an enrolment policy in accordance with this overarching Diocesan policy.

4.2 School based policies should reflect the unique context of their local community.

4.3 The Parish Priest/Canonical Administrator, in collaboration with the Principal, is responsible for enrolments.\(^5\)

4.4 The Principal has the discretion to process an application of a student below the minimum age provided they meet all requirements in the Diocesan policy - Enrolment of Students Below the Minimum Age.

5.0 ENROLMENT GUIDELINES

It is expected that children will enrol in the Catholic school serving the Parish in which they reside. It is recognised that the circumstances facing schools, when making such decisions, will vary across the Diocese and from year to year and that each school needs to make allowances for its own environment and requirements. In exceptional situations where Catholic children who reside in other parishes cannot obtain places in their local parish school, or if families request enrolment outside their local parish school, it is expected that communication will occur between the Principals (and Parish Priests) of the relevant schools.

Within the context of the above principles and procedures, the following criteria, which are listed in priority order, are provided for schools to consider when the number of enrolment applications exceed a school’s available places.

5.1 Primary Schools

5.1.1 Catholic primary schools give priority to children baptised as Catholics and siblings of children already attending the school.

5.1.2 Catholic children\(^6\) who are members of the designated local parish community.

5.1.3 Catholic children from non-Catholic primary schools whose residential address is in the designated parish.

5.1.4 Catholic children who reside in other parishes and who could have gained enrolment in their parish school.

5.1.5 Children from families who belong to any Orthodox Church.\(^7\)

5.1.6 Children whose parents/guardians desire and are committed to a Catholic Education for their children.

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\(^5\) Code of Canon Law, Canon 96.
\(^6\) Children who have been baptised in the Catholic Church are deemed to be Catholic, Code of Canon Law, Canon 96
\(^7\) If there is difficulty with access to their own Church, they may participate in full Sacramental life of the school.
5.2 Secondary Schools

5.2.1 Catholic secondary schools give priority to children baptized as Catholics and siblings of children already attending the school
5.2.2 Catholic children who attend a Catholic school in the designated enrolment area.
5.2.3 Catholic children from non-Catholic schools whose families are active members of the local parish.
5.2.4 Children who have been enrolled in a Catholic school in the designated enrolment area.
5.2.5 Catholic children who attend a Catholic school but reside outside the designated enrolment area.
5.2.6 Catholic children from non-Catholic schools who reside outside the designated enrolment area, who
5.2.6.1 Cannot obtain a place in their designated secondary school, or
5.2.6.2 Can obtain a place in their designated secondary school, but choose not to accept such a place.
5.2.7 Children who have been enrolled in a Catholic school outside the designated enrolment area.
5.2.8 Catholic children who reside in other parishes and who could have gained enrolment in their secondary school.
5.2.9 Children from families who belong to any of the Orthodox Church.
5.2.10 Children whose parents/guardians desire and are committed to a Catholic Education for their children.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES
Schools and families in the Diocese of Sale have an enrolment policy that is clear and transparent to guide them in the enrolment process.

REFERENCES
- Disability Discrimination Act, 1992 –
- Code of Canon Law, Canons 96, 217 and 797
- Ecclesia in Oceania, No 33
- Enrolment of Students Below the Minimum Age Policy
  Enrolment of Students Below the Minimum Age Policy DRAFT

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8 If there is difficulty with access to their own Church, they may participate in full Sacramental life of the school.