

# INCLUSIVE PRACTICE IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

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**Scope:** This policy applies to all Catholic schools, colleges and kindergartens conducted by Catholic Education, Diocese of Rockhampton.

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## 1. POLICY STATEMENT

All Catholic schools and colleges in the Diocese of Rockhampton are responsible for:

- engaging with the vision of inclusive practice
- actively and systematically promoting inclusive practice in their communities according to this vision.

## 2. DEFINITION

Inclusive Practice is differentiating learning activities to meet the diverse needs of individual learners so that all learners can achieve personal growth. Inclusive practice as defined in the Catholic Education *Statement of Inclusive Practice* (see attachment).

## 2. DESCRIPTION

The *Defining Features* and the Catholic Education's *Learning Framework* provide Catholic schools and colleges in the Diocese of Rockhampton with a vision for learning. Central to this vision is the notion of diversity. Catholic schools and colleges promote diversity in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1992, the Disability Standards for Education 2005 and the *Curriculum in Catholic Schools and Colleges Policy*.

This policy clarifies the approach that has been adopted with regard to inclusive practice in Catholic Education.



### 3. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

Catholic schools and colleges will:

- engage as a school community with Catholic Education's *Statement of Inclusive Practice*
- promote professional learning in the area of inclusive practice
- review school documentation to ensure it aligns with Catholic Education's *Statement of Inclusive Practice*:
  - role statements
  - curriculum framework
  - curriculum program
- ensure the vision of inclusive practice informs decision-making.

### 4. REFLECTION MATERIAL

#### CATHOLIC EDUCATION POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS

- Diocese of Rockhampton (2004) "*An encounter with Christ*": [Defining Features of Catholic Schools in the 21st Century](#)
- Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton (2010) [Learning Framework](#)
- Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton (2016) Statement of Inclusive Practice
- [Enrolment \(2012/01\)](#)
- [Curriculum in Catholic Schools and Colleges \(2012/12\)](#)
- [Teaching and Learning Religion in Diocesan Catholic Schools and Colleges \(2015/08\)](#)

#### RESOURCES

- *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*
- *Disability Standards for Education 2005*
- *Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians (December 2008)*
- *Australian Curriculum*
- [Queensland Curriculum Assessment Authority \(QCAA\)](#)

## Statement of Inclusive Practice Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton

*“The person of each individual human being, in his or her material and spiritual needs, is at the heart of Christ’s teaching; this is why the promotion of the human person is the goal of the Catholic school”*

*(John Paul II (1991) in Defining Features of Catholic Schools 2004 p.9)*

Each person is uniquely created in the image and likeness of God where every individual has a unique and significant contribution to make. Therefore, it is the responsibility of Catholic Education to:

- uphold the dignity and rights of all in our school communities;
- value and celebrate the uniqueness of each person;
- empower each learner to be and to become a participant in an ever changing world.

Inclusive practice reflects these beliefs and is integral to the ethos of a Catholic school. Inclusive practice is not restricted to any particular group of learners or pedagogy but refers to each person in our school community. This ensures that maximum quality learning opportunities are accessible to all learners.

Catholic Education will actively and systematically promote inclusive practice by:

- identifying and removing barriers to inclusiveness in policies, structures and attitudes;
- providing a curriculum that strives to educate the whole person and meet the needs of each individual;
- assisting each learner to continually learn and grow;
- assisting each learner to become a life-long learner;
- recognising and celebrating a broad range of achievements and efforts;
- offering a flexible, safe, enjoyable, and challenging learning environment;
- promoting a collaborative approach to meeting the needs of learners.

### References

Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton (2004) *“An Encounter with Christ” – Defining Features of Catholic Schools in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.*

Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton (2010) *Learning Framework*