



## **ST MICHAEL'S PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOLS** **ENROLMENT POLICY**

St Michael's Parish is committed to the provision of a Catholic education for children in the primary and secondary levels. At present, our Parish administers three primary schools—St Michael's, St Catherine's and St Brigid's Officer which opened in 2010 and we are 'feeder schools' to St Francis Xavier College, Beaconsfield and Berwick.

This enrolment policy has been developed by St Michael's Parish Berwick, to reflect enrolment guidelines as developed by the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria.

Key principles of the CECV guidelines include:

- Priority of enrolment must be baptised Catholic children residing within parish boundaries.
- Enrolment of a child is dependent upon the capacity of the school to adequately provide for the educational needs of the child.
- The ability of parents to pay school fees is not a criterion for enrolment.
- Children of the Greek Orthodox faith and other Orthodox Christians are recognised as deserving of special consideration of enrolment.

The Parish enrolment policy aims to ensure:

1. A balanced distribution of student numbers between the three schools.
2. Optimum use of the facilities and resources available to each school.
3. Access to a Catholic education for all eligible children within the Parish.
4. First priority of placement being given to siblings of current or past students at the designated parish school.
5. The child must turn 5 years of age prior to the 30<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year in which the child commences school.

The distribution of families between the three schools necessitates the establishment of a catchment area per school within the parish boundaries.

Should demand for places at one of the schools exceed the number of places available, then new families would be offered a place at the alternate parish school, subject to vacancies. The criteria for the allocation of places shall be determined by the three School Principals.

The catchment area for the three schools may vary (from time to time) given the rapid growth trends within the Parish boundaries. At present, the catchment areas are:

- (i) St Michael's - those families within the Parish boundaries living north of the freeway and west of Cardinia Creek
- (ii) St Catherine's - those families within the Parish boundaries living south of the freeway and west of Cardinia Creek
- (iii) St Brigid's Officer – those families within the Parish boundaries living east of Cardinia Creek

The parents of any child to be enrolled will be required to accept an obligation to pay fees and levies as determined by the School Board. In the event of parents having any difficulty in paying fees and/or levies, they should discuss the matter with the School Principal and/or Parish Priest.

Any exceptions to this Parish Enrolment Policy or alterations to the zone boundary will be determined by the Parish Priest in consultation with the School Principals and the School Board.

### **Transfer of students between the three parish schools**

Should a family wish to transfer their child/children between the two schools without a change of address, the family must first discuss their intentions and reasons with their current Principal. If a transfer is determined to be in the best interest of the child/children, then a further meeting will be held, this time including the other school's Principal. At this meeting, a final decision regarding the transfer will be made by the Principals in consultation with the Parish Priest.