



TL07 Students with a Disability Policy and Guidelines

1. Purpose

The Geelong College recognises our responsibility to take reasonable steps to ensure that students with disabilities have the opportunity to realise their individual potential through their participation in education and training on the same basis as students without disabilities, and are not subject to discrimination.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all students with disabilities at The Geelong College.

3. Definitions

The Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA) defines **disability** broadly as:

- total or partial loss of the person's bodily or mental functions; or
- total or partial loss of a part of the body; or
- the presence in the body of organisms causing disease or illness; or
- the presence in the body of organisms capable of causing disease or illness; or
- the malfunction, malformation or disfigurement of a part of the person's body; or
- a disorder or malfunction that results in the person learning differently from a person without the disorder or malfunction; or
- a disorder, illness or disease that affects a person's thought processes, perception of reality, emotions or judgement or that results in disturbed behaviour; and includes a disability that:
 - presently exists; or
 - previously existed but no longer exists; or
 - may exist in the future (including because of a genetic predisposition to that disability); or
 - is imputed to a person.

To avoid doubt, a disability that is otherwise covered by this definition includes behaviour that is a symptom or manifestation of the disability.

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2018C00125>

Other relevant terms and definitions

(taken from the NCCD: <https://parentguide.nccd.edu.au/content/whats-reasonable>)

Adjustments are reasonable measures and actions taken to enable a student with disability to access and participate in education on the same basis as other students. This is fundamental to ensuring that students with disability do not experience discrimination.

On the same basis means that students with disability are provided with opportunities and choices that are comparable to those available to students without disability.

Reasonable adjustments are actions taken to enable students with disability to participate in education on the same basis as other students while balancing the interests, including

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safety, of all parties affected, including those of the student with the disability, the education provider, staff and other students.

https://resource.dse.theeducationinstitute.edu.au/sites/default/files/dse_plus_guidance_notes.pdf

4. Disability Standards for Education 2005

In order to comply with the Disability Standards for Education 2005, The Geelong College follows a process for enrolment:

1. Consult with the student (and/or parents, associates)
2. Consideration is made as to whether or not an adjustment is necessary
3. If an adjustment is necessary, identify *reasonable adjustments* the College is able to put in place so that the student can participate
4. Once enrolled, put *reasonable adjustments* in place and document these adjustments using appropriate documentation processes such as SEQTA profiles, a management plan or Individual Learning Plan (ILP) that details reasonable adjustments.

6. Considering applications for enrolment

In the case of a child with a known or suspected disability who wishes to enter the school, the College will need to be made aware of the disability and possible impact, seeking expert opinion as to the likely requirements of the child throughout their schooling.

The College recognises its primary obligation is meeting the needs of students with disabilities who are already enrolled in the College. This means that the College will consider all new enrolments within the context of the needs of currently enrolled students.

The Geelong College will make any decisions about admission or enrolment for students with disability on the basis that *reasonable adjustments* will be made where necessary so that the student with disability is treated on the same basis as a student without the disability.

In deciding whether an adjustment for a student with disability is reasonable, all relevant circumstances and information should be taken into account, including:

- The impact of the disability on the student's learning, participation and independence
- The views of the student with disability, or their associate, about their preferred adjustment
- The impact of the adjustment on relevant parties, such as other students, staff members, the student's family and the education provider
- Costs and benefits of making the adjustment
- The need to maintain the essential requirements of the course or program.

These considerations are adapted from the following guidelines from the NCCD:

<https://parentguide.nccd.edu.au/content/whats-reasonable>

The particular circumstances of each child will be considered to ensure the best possible educational outcomes for the student. Other educational options may need to be considered by the parents, associates and/or the student, if relevant adjustments cannot be reasonably made within the resources and facilities of the Geelong College.

Prior to the interview, the Admissions Manager will provide Heads of School with appropriate information following completion of the **Admissions Form** by the parents. The

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Learning Support Coordinator and/or School Counsellor may be called on to provide information and advice at the time of the enrolment interview. Further independent advice may also be sought.

After enrolment

1. If a special condition or disability becomes apparent in the course of a child's schooling and adequate provision can be made for this condition or disability, a *management* plan will be put in place in consultation with parents and appropriate experts.
2. The school is entitled to request an independent assessment of a child's special condition at any time during his/her schooling.

Application for Enrolment Form

As part of the enrolment process for all students, the following information is requested. Parents are, further, requested to include all relevant documentation to their application, enabling us to form a full picture of the student's capabilities, strengths and needs at the time of enrolment.

a) Does your child have any specific physical, emotional or learning difficulties/disabilities?

YES NO

Please specify (if applicable):

b) Has your child received assistance over and above the level of support generally provided by a classroom teacher?

YES NO

Please specify (if applicable):

c) Have any formal assessments been undertaken by Medical Practitioners, Speech Pathologists, Psychologists or Special Education Consultants (or the like) that would assist us in supporting your child?

YES NO

Please specify (if applicable):

d) Are there any other issues that might affect your child's ability to participate in the educational experience offered by the College?

YES NO

Please specify (if applicable):