



Policy and Procedures for Admission to Rossbourne School

Purpose:

This document outlines Rossbourne School's processes for enrolment of students who have a diagnosed or assessable neuro-development/learning disability that would make a student eligible for enrolment in an Independent Specialist School.

Context:

Rossbourne School is an independent, co-educational, non-denominational Special School for secondary students – Years 7-12.

Although Rossbourne is a Special School, it is not a traditional Special School. It is best described as sitting between a mainstream and traditional Special School, whose students required an IQ under 70 for enrolment.

The majority of our students have assessed IQs above 70 and some capacity for independent learning. The teachers at Rossbourne specifically assists students (all have diagnosed and identifiable learning disabilities) to achieve their full potential, educationally and socially. Nearly all of our students go on to various TAFE courses and some will gain employment and apprenticeships.

Our Vision:

To be a world leading school known for its unique and innovative neuro-diverse educational programs where students' potential is unlocked so they can achieve their best as global citizens.

Our Mission:

Rossbourne's purpose is to enhance the life chances of its students by putting them at the centre of learning, and creating opportunities to develop independence, social connection, resilience, and respectful relationships.

Our mission is to nurture our students as they develop self-worth and confidence. To empower them to realise their strengths so they will build foundations for personal achievements, creating opportunities to define their own success in making a positive contribution to our community.

Process for Identifying Suitability of Applicant Students:

1. Prospective students and their parents are strongly encouraged to join a school tour to get a sense of Rossbourne School and clarity about what our school can offer and who benefits most from our unique educational program. Parents can then register an expression of interest for enrolment.
2. Parents will be contacted by our Director of Wellbeing to follow up expression of interest and ask parents to send any diagnostic assessments that have been completed for prospective student by a qualified and appropriate professional. These may include IQ/cognitive assessments as well as test results such as Speech Pathology / language assessments, autism, paediatric reports, etc. Copies can be posted, but current experience has shown significant delays.
3. We will then seek your permission to speak with any professionals/therapists working with your child, and also permission for one of our teachers to have a discussion with a nominated teacher from your child's current school.
4. Our Director of Wellbeing will arrange a time for a formal interview with parents, prospective student and the School Principal, giving the family the opportunity to raise any concerns and seek further information. The Director of Wellbeing will meet with prospective student and offer the student a tour of the school and answer any questions the prospective student may have.
5. The student will be offered a 2 day trial at Rossbourne School. A report is produced based on the written observations of teachers who have taught the prospective student over the 2 day trial.
6. Taking all the information provided into account and the 2 day trial observations, a panel meets to determine if, in our professional opinion, Rossbourne School is the best school for the prospective student's secondary education.
7. Parents are invited to meet with the Director of Wellbeing and school Principal so feedback can be provided to parents of our analysis and observations. If appropriate, an offer of enrolment will be made at this meeting.