

Enrolment Policy

October 2020 (Revised)



Purpose and Context

Our Lady of Mercy College is a Catholic girls school operated by the Sisters of Mercy within the governance of Mercy Education Limited. The Sisters of Mercy are committed to providing secondary education in Australia within a distinctly Catholic context.

This Enrolment Policy reflects their commitment and also is consistent with the Catholic Education Melbourne (CEM) Policy 2.4, Enrolment for Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Melbourne (revised January 2019). It is intended to ensure a fair and transparent approach to enrolment at the College.

Enrolment decisions are made by the Principal in line with this policy, however the College reserves the right to exercise discretion to respond to the pastoral needs of individual families.

Definitions

Catholic applicant: A Catholic applicant is considered to be a member of the Catholic Church, usually established by a Certificate of Catholic Baptism.

Designated priority parishes: As mandated for OLMC in the CEM Enrolment Policy 2.4 (2019), *Enrolment for Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Melbourne*.

Policy Statement

A non-refundable application fee is payable and, where appropriate, the application must be accompanied by a copy of the applicant's Catholic Baptismal certificate.

An Application for Enrolment at Year 7 may be made for a girl only after she starts Grade 3.

Applications for Year 7 will be processed in the student's Grade 5 year.

Applications will be reviewed with preference given according to the following criteria:

1. Applicants who have or have had sisters attend the College
2. Catholic applicants who have had a mother attend the College and who currently attend a Catholic primary school
3. Catholic applicants who are residents of a designated Priority Parish and attend a Catholic primary school in one of those parishes (see below)
4. Catholic applicants who are residents of a designated Priority Parish and have **not** attended a Catholic school
5. Catholic applicants from other parishes

6. Other Christian applicants
7. All other applicants.

Criteria 2 & 3 apply to applicants who are Eastern Orthodox Christians.

For the purpose of enrolment, a baptism certificate must be provided by Catholic and Orthodox applicants.

Priority Parishes for OLMC Enrolment

Parish	Primary School
Alphington/Thornbury East	St Anthony's and Holy Spirit
Bulleen	St Clement of Rome
Bundoora	St Damian's
Doncaster	St Gregory's
Donvale	Our Lady of the Pines
Greensborough North	St Thomas's
Greensborough	St Mary's
Heidelberg	St John's
Heidelberg West	St Pius X
Ivanhoe	Mary Immaculate and St Bernadette's
Kingsbury	Our Lady of the Way
Macleod/Rosanna	St Martin of Tours
Mill Park/South Morang	St Francis of Assisi
Montmorency/North Eltham	St Francis Xavier and Holy Trinity
Templestowe	St Kevin's and St Charles Borromeo

After offers have been made, Year 7 applicants who have not been offered a place can elect to go on the Year 7 Waiting List. OLMC will also accept Year 7 Waitlist applications after Year 7 offers have been made and accepted. The College will contact families if a place becomes available.

Criteria for Enrolment at Years Levels 8 to 12

Preference will be given to Catholic students who have completed the appropriate level of education. There is a Waiting List for enrolment in Year Levels 8 to 12.

All Enrolments

It is expected that parents / guardians will support the College in the Catholic education of their daughter and involve themselves as much as possible in the school life. When a student from another Christian denomination or a non-Christian faith is offered a place at the College, the offer is contingent on the willingness of the parents and the student to support the philosophy and ethos of the College.

Enrolment for Students with Additional Needs

The College welcomes parents/guardians who wish to enrol a student with additional needs and will do everything possible to accommodate the student's needs, provided that an understanding has been reached between the College and parents/guardians prior to enrolment regarding:

- The nature of any diagnosed or suspected medical condition/disability, or any other circumstances that are relevant to the student's additional learning needs (for example, giftedness or an experience of trauma)
- The nature of any additional assistance that is recommended/appropriate to be provided to the student (for example, medical or specialist equipment, specialist referrals, specific welfare support, modifications to the classroom environment or curriculum, aide assistance, individual education programs, behaviour support plans or other education interventions as may be relevant)
- The individual physical, functional, emotional or educational goals that are appropriate to the student, and how the parents/guardians and the College will work in partnership to achieve these goals
- Any limitations on the College's ability to provide the additional assistance requested.

The process for enrolling students with additional needs is otherwise the same as for enrolling any student.

As every student's educational needs can change over time, it will often be necessary for the College to review any additional assistance that is being provided to the student in consultation with parents/guardians and the student's treating medical/allied health professionals, in order to assess whether:

- The additional assistance remains necessary and/or appropriate to the student's needs
- The additional assistance is having the anticipated positive effect on the student's individual physical, functional, emotional or educational goals.

Referenced and Related Documents

Catholic Education Melbourne Policy 2.4 (2019), *Enrolment for Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Melbourne*

OLMC Application for Enrolment Form

MEL-OLMC Privacy Policy 2016

MEL – OLMC Collection Notice 2016

Policy Updated: October 2020

Next Policy Review: October 2022

Person Responsible: The Principal