

RATHMINES PUBLIC SCHOOL

“Enrolment Implementation Protocols and Procedures”

Definitions

"Enrolled" - A child is considered to be enrolled at a school when they are placed on the Admission Register of the school. The filling in of Application for Enrolment Forms is just the first step in this process.

"Local school" - For every address in NSW there is a designated local government school. Parents are entitled to enrol their child at their local school.

"Non-Local school" - A government school which has a designated drawing area which does not include your address.

"Enrolment Ceiling" - A number of total enrolments which the school can accommodate using existing permanent classroom space.

"Enrolment number" - A number of total enrolments which allows space for any child who lives within the school's designated drawing area and whose parents wish to enrol him or her. This number is based on past trends for demand for local places at our school.

General Principles

Children are entitled to be enrolled at the government school that is designated for the intake area within which the child's home is situated and that the child is eligible to attend.

- * Rathmines Public School, like all public schools, has a designated local drawing area.
- * Boundaries for the drawing area for local schools are set from time to time by the Department of School Education and Training taking into account a range of factors which may include demographics and the availability of classrooms and other space at the school.
- * Each school must set an **enrolment number** which ensures that there is always space available for local enrolments
- * Parents are entitled to enrol their child at their local school.
- * Alternatively, parents may seek to enrol their child in the Non-Local school of their choice.
- * Applications for enrolment in Non-Local schools will only be considered if there is space available in the school.
- * Applications for enrolment in Non-Local schools will be considered by a Placement Panel when there is available space.

Discrimination in Enrolment

In the context of the above principles, which clearly constrain an individual's choice of provision, no person will be discriminated against on the grounds of their sex, age, race, religion, ethnicity or disability.

Enrolment Ceilings

Our school has established an enrolment ceiling, in line with Department of Education policy which reflects accommodation available and established staffing. Agreement has been reached that the enrolment ceiling will be **393** students in total enrolled in a total of **fifteen mainstream** classes. The school also has three additional special education classes catering for approximately 24 students.

Enrolment Buffer

Within the enrolment ceiling, a **buffer** is to be established annually to accommodate local students arriving throughout the year. This buffer is based upon historical data and enrolment fluctuations. The school's actual enrolment number is based on the enrolment ceiling **minus** the enrolment buffer. **NB “Non local enrolments” cannot be accepted once this total enrolment number is reached.** The current (2020) maximum enrolment number in **mainstream classes** for Rathmines Public School is **372**.

Enrolment Procedures

A parent wishing to enrol their child at Rathmines Public School should firstly, find out if our school is the designated local school for their address. This can be done by ringing the school on 49 751229. Alternatively, you are welcome to call at our office between 8.30am and 3.00pm during school term. The school has written information available which may be collected at our office.

Local Enrolments

Visit our office and request enrolment.

- You may be required to provide proof of residential address.
- School Administrative Staff will assist with enrolment procedures and provide relevant information.
- Class placement will be made by the Principal or his/her designated officer.
- Child's name will be entered in our Admissions Register and the child will be enrolled at our school.
- A meeting will be arranged with the Principal to provide you with general school information, student welfare and discipline procedures and transport arrangements, as appropriate.
- If your child is transferring from another government school, we will request that school to forward your child's Pupil Record Card to us.

Kindergarten Enrolments

- a.) Children may enrol in Kindergarten at the beginning of the school year if they turn five years of age on or before the 31st July in that year. Documentation providing proof of age, such as a birth certificate or passport, is required on enrolment.
- b.) Parents who wish to enrol eligible children after the beginning of the school year may do so up until the end of term 2. However, the school preference is for all children enrolling in Kinder to start school at the beginning of the school year.
- c.) The Principal will enrol in Kindergarten, students on transfer and children reaching the statutory age of 6 years.
- d.) The Public Health act 1992 requires parents to provide documented evidence of a child's immunisation status on enrolment. Parents have the right to not having children immunised. However, in the event of an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease, unimmunised children will be required to remain at home for the duration of the outbreak.
(Memorandum 93.016 Public Health Amendment Act 1992 - Immunisation: Children Entering Kindergarten.)

Non Local Enrolment

Within the constraints set by the school's Enrolment Number, and recognising that the acceptance of non locals must not generate demand for extra staff or create disruption to school routine, the following policy approach has been established.

Parents who live outside our designated drawing area and who are seeking to enrol their child at our school are deemed to be non-local enrolments.

In this case the parents are advised to visit the school and speak to the Principal. Parents may be advised that there is no space available within the school's Enrolment Number or, parents may be asked to complete an Application for Non-Local Primary School Enrolment for consideration by the school Placement Panel.

If an Application for Non-Local Primary School Enrolment is completed, the Principal will advise the parents of the outcome as soon as possible following the Panel meeting.

Placement Panels - for Non-Local Enrolments

- * The Placement Panel will be made up of the Principal, teacher and a parent representative.
- * The panel will be chaired by the Principal who will have the casting vote.
- * The panel will meet when required to consider applications for Non-Local Enrolment.
- * Meetings will be scheduled taking into account the commitments of the panel members.
- * Panel decisions will be based on the criteria stated below.

Placement Criteria - for Non-Local Enrolments

If space is available within the school's Enrolment Number, and if the enrolment will not create a disruption to school routine, or create demand for additional staff, the following criteria may be considered by the panel in making a decision to accept or refuse an application for Non-Local Enrolment :

- * siblings already enrolled at this school;
- * structure and organisation of the school;
- * compassionate circumstances;
- * medical reasons;
- * safety and supervision of the student before and after school;
- * special interests and abilities; and
- * proximity and access to the school.

Waiting Lists

A Waiting List may be established for Non-Local students if parents wish their child to be placed on such a list. Waiting lists will be current for one year only and will indicate the priority order of applicants.

Appeals

Appeals, in the first instance, against the decision of the Placement Panel must be made in writing to the Principal. The Principal will seek to resolve the matter.

Where the matter is not resolved at the local level, the School Director will consider the appeal and make a determination.

The purpose of the appeal will be to determine whether the stated criteria have been applied fairly.

Procedures for Enrolments in Particular Instances

Students with Disabilities

The Department of School Education provides a range of services and resources to support the education of students with disabilities. These include:

- targeted funding, specialist teachers, teachers aides and consultancy service to support students enrolled in regular classes;
- special classes;
- special school (e.g. physical, behavioural);
- modifications of buildings to facilitate access;
- provision of specialised equipment and technology; and
- special transport services.

When considering the enrolment of a student with a disability at Rathmines Public School, all these provisions are to be considered.

The decision where to enrol a student with a disability, and with what level of support, will depend on a number of factors, including the student's needs, the expressed desires of parents or caregivers, the capacity of the system to provide the level of support services required generally as well as the availability of support services at alternative locations.

In many situations it will be possible to enrol a student with a disability at Rathmines Public School with the necessary level of specialist support. In some circumstances the level of support required, or the specialist nature of that support, may necessitate alternative enrolment options being considered.

In each case, when a student with a disability presents for enrolment, it is the responsibility of the Principal to ensure that an appraisal of the student's educational needs is carried out. For some

students, appraisal will have occurred as part of a planned transition process. For others, the appraisal will take place at the time enrolment is sought.

Appraisals will involve parents or caregivers and will entail consideration of the student's support needs in areas such as curriculum, mobility, social skills, personal care and communication. It will often involve consideration of supporting documentation from medical practitioners and other health and education professionals. District special education consultants will be consulted to assist in this process, in particular, to identify the resources which may be available to support enrolment. Requests for enrolment in special classes or special schools are considered by a District Placement Panel.

Refusal of Enrolment

Principals may refuse enrolment of a student on the grounds of previously documented violent behaviour if there is evidence that the student has not learned the appropriate skills to manage this behaviour.

For more information

Further information regarding this Enrolment Policy may be obtained by contacting :

The Principal,
Rathmines Public School,
Secret Corner Road,
Rathmines 2283
Phone :(02) 49 751229

Further References

Enrolment of Students in Government Schools: A Summary and Consolidation of Policy -1997