

## Rationale

At Corpus Christi College we seek to meet the diverse learning needs of all our students. This sentiment is embodied in our Mission Statement – 'We are a Catholic community committed to empowering every learner to serve and enrich our changing world' – and our Vision for Learning, 'Ignite the Spirit'.

The College recognises the dignity of each individual student and acknowledges its responsibility to make provision for all students. We offer a range of supports in the College for students with learning disabilities and disorders. Supports include the allocation of Learning Support Teachers, Learning Assistants, the iLAN program and Quality Differentiated Teaching practices.

# **Guidelines for Catering for Students With Learning Disabilities and Disorders**

#### A. Identification of students with needs

During the enrolment process students who have been identified with areas of weakness are invited to attend a transition interview. The transition interview is an important step for students with learning disorders and difficulties as they begin their journey into the secondary school environment. During this time, staff, parents and students work collaboratively to ascertain strengths, weaknesses and the appropriate teaching and learning adjustments for students.

Methods to identify students who require learning support include:

- At enrolment students with diagnosed disabilities are identified and referred to the Director of Learning Support
- The use of reports of diagnosis
- The use of objective data such as IQ tests, aptitude test, standardised tests and school-based teacher assessment
- The use of subjective data such as parent and teacher observations

#### **B.** Documented Plans

Corpus Christi College provides documentation for students with diagnosed disabilities in the form of Documented Plans which include but are not limited to:

- Individual Adjustment Plans
- Individual Education Plans
- Individual Transition Plans
- Behaviour Plans
- Medical Plans



# C. Staffing

The Learning Support team, consists of the Director of Learning Support, numeracy support teacher, literacy support teacher and three Learning Assistants, who work to improve the confidence, access and participation skills of students with learning difficulties by providing the following supports:

- Special arrangements for assessments and examinations including extra time, scribe and reader support
- Planning for differentiation in day-to-day class activities
- Modification and scaffolding to cater for all learners in assessments and in class activities
- Providing support for students with anxiety and break tokens
- The use of vocabulary and study sheets and appropriate study techniques

Learning Support Teachers are qualified teachers with specific teaching and planning skills in the areas of learning difficulties, who can provide strategies for students requiring teaching and learning adjustments.

Learning Assistants are assigned to support specific students in Year 7-12 with learning difficulties and disabilities. The allocation of Learning Assistants is at the discretion of the Director of Learning Support with the premise of supporting students with greatest need.

The Learning Support staff work closely with College teaching staff to ensure that all students have the appropriate assistance and supports for learning, such as:

- Creating Learning Support profiles for all students with specific learning difficulties and disorders
- Introduction of audio books, which have been used successfully to support students in their English novel studies
- Creating targeted spelling programs for individual students
- In-class support
- Creation of iTunes U course with information about specific learning disorders and difficulties
- Differentiated grammar program

### D. iLAN Program

The College Learning Centre runs the iLAN program (Intensive Literacy and Numeracy classes). The focus is on targeted intervention in literacy and numeracy as well as building resilience and independent thinking – important skills to develop – so that students may progress across all subjects in the curriculum.







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