Special Needs

Pembroke School aims to provide all students with a quality education which develops an individual to his/her full potential. The School has an inclusive enrolment policy and thus all applications are welcome. However where a student has identified special needs related to his/her learning, enrolment cannot be confirmed without full consideration being given to the individual needs of the applicant and whether the School can meet those needs.

The South Australian Equal Opportunity Act 1984 and the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992 make it unlawful for education authorities to discriminate against a person on the ground of impairment by refusing or failing to accept an application for admission as a student. Pembroke School will not discriminate against students with disabilities and will apply the same conditions of entry that are applicable to all students. The only time where such enrolment may be refused is where the provision of the services or facilities required by the student with a disability would impose unjustifiable hardship on the School or be otherwise unreasonable.

For the purposes of this policy, a child with special needs is considered to be any child who requires specialised and professional attention above and beyond the individual attention already afforded to the students at Pembroke School. Such special needs may be as a result of intellectual impairment, physical impairment, social/emotional difficulty, sensory impairment or severe multiple disabilities.

In order to facilitate consideration of enrolling a student with special needs, parents are requested to furnish the following information with the Application for Admission Form:

- any current reports and/or assessments related to a school setting, for example, educational testing carried out by an accredited professional,
- details of any past or current agency support, and
- any special requirements such as for health and personal care.

As is the case in all enrolments, if false or misleading statements are made in the enrolment form or if relevant information is not disclosed at the time of enrolment, the Principal may terminate enrolment at any time, where the Principal has reasonable grounds to do so.

If a student develops special needs while at Pembroke, or if a particular condition deteriorates, the situation would need to be re-assessed by the Principal on advice from relevant staff and discussion with parents. Consideration would be given to the needs of the student and to whether the provision of the services or facilities required by the student with special needs would impose unjustifiable hardship on the School or be otherwise unreasonable.

Pembroke School endeavours to provide a caring, supportive and challenging environment for all students from the Early Learning Centre to Year 12. Students who are identified as requiring specific structures to enhance their overall development are supported, in a variety of ways, throughout their schooling. Specialist teachers, classroom teachers, volunteer assistants, counsellors and parents help to provide opportunities for students which will assist them to achieve their full potential. It is recognised that a creative and dynamic approach can best cater for the needs of the individual as he/she progresses through School.