

Wednesday 17 January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Re: Revised Enrolment Policy for the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle**

This year the Catholic Diocese has received unprecedented demand for school entry across our Diocesan schools. This demand, combined with the desire to offer families an education pathway for their children from St Nicholas Early Education through to Year 12, has led to the Diocese revising and adjusting the Enrolment Policy.

The new policy sets out the prioritisation for enrolment in schools and applies to all students seeking enrolment at a school in the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle (CDMN).

Starting at the beginning of 2024, the changes to the enrolment criteria for Catholic Diocese Maitland-Newcastle Schools will be as per the following priority order:

**Enrolment Prioritisation: Primary Schools**

Enrolments for CDMN Primary Schools will be prioritised in the following order:

1. Siblings of students currently enrolled in the Catholic primary school to which the application is being made.
2. Catholic families living within the school's catchment area (in priority order):
  - a. Catholic families that have strong demonstrable links to the local Catholic Parish.
  - b. Catholic families who participate irregularly in the life and worship of the Parish.
  - c. Catholic families who do not participate in Parish life but whose children attend a CDMN St Nicholas Early Education Centre.
  - d. Catholic families living within the school's catchment area that do not participate in Parish life.
3. Families whose children attend a St Nicholas Early Education Centre and live within the school's catchment area.
4. Families of other Christian denominations living within the school's catchment area and committed to supporting all aspects of Catholic education.
5. Other families living within the school's catchment area and committed to supporting all aspects of Catholic education.

## **Enrolment Prioritisation: Secondary Schools**

Enrolments for CDMN Secondary Schools will be prioritised in the following order:

1. Students currently enrolled in a CDMN Catholic primary school who have shown a commitment to Catholic education and are enrolling into their pathway Catholic Secondary school.
2. Siblings of students currently enrolled in the Catholic secondary school to which the application is being made.
3. Catholic families from non-pathway schools living within the school's catchment area.
4. Families of other Christian denominations living within the school's catchment area and committed to supporting all aspects of Catholic education.
5. Other families living within the school's catchment area and committed to supporting all aspects of Catholic education.

A commitment to Catholic education when considering priority of enrolment for secondary education means enrolment at a CDMN primary school from **Kindergarten or at least the commencement of Year 4** for priority enrolment for secondary schools.

For more details on the enrolment prioritisation criteria please visit the [Enrolment Policy page on the CSO website](#) for further information.

We understand the concerns families and students have regarding school entry and assure families that considerable analysis and review has been provided to best accommodate students across the region.

We thank you for your understanding and encourage you to read the FAQs for parents and carers as follows for further information.

Yours sincerely,



**Steve Lemos**

Head of Catholic Schools  
Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

## School enrolment in the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

### FAQs for parents and carers

#### Why the change to the enrolment policy?

Applications for 2024 enrolments across some areas of the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle (CDMN) far outweigh the available capacity at the school sites. The enrolment policy has been updated so Catholic pathway school students receive priority at Catholic secondary schools.

#### When does the new enrolment policy start?

The new Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Schools enrolment policy will be implemented for enrolments for 2024 onwards.

#### When does my child need to be enrolled to be considered for Secondary education enrolment priority?

Families who wish to enrol their child in a CDMN Catholic school must demonstrate a commitment to Catholic Education.

A commitment to Catholic education when considering the priority of enrolment for secondary education means enrolment at a CDMN primary school from Kindergarten or at least the commencement of Year 4 for priority enrolment for secondary schools;

#### What are the school pathways?

For information on the CDMN pathway school relationships from St Nicholas to primary school, right through to secondary school, please refer to the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle [Education Pathway document linked here](#).

Considerable analysis and review has been provided to best accommodate students across the region, with the catchment areas for secondary schools reflecting the collective primary schools' geographic catchment areas.

#### What if I am trying to enrol from outside of the area?

Please contact the relevant school for further information about the out-of-area enrolment process. If the school is able to accommodate out-of-area enrolments, the school will advise you of any non-local enrolment selection criteria.

Who should families speak to if they have further concerns?

Families should speak to the relevant school principal in the first instance. If families feel they need to express further concern, they can contact the Catholic Schools Office by email at [feedback@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:feedback@mn.catholic.org.au).