

# Enrolment Policy



## Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact [insert school contact Riverbend Primary School on 9742 8800.

## BACKGROUND

Riverbend Primary School is a Victorian government supported inclusion school.

By law in Victoria all children from the age of 6 up until they turn 17 years must be enrolled at a registered school or registered for home schooling unless they have a reasonable excuse. School participation maximises life opportunities for children and young people by providing them with a comprehensive educational program and access to support networks. It also helps to develop important skills, knowledge and values that set them up for further learning and active participation in their local community.

Supported inclusion schools are local government schools that have some additional accessibility facilities that assist them to implement a model of education provision and support for a higher proportion of students with a disability among the general student population. Supported inclusion schools also have enrolment policies that allow them to prioritise enrolment of students with disability who live outside the school zone, provided they meet specialist enrolment criteria. These features support students with disability to attend a school closer to home and study alongside students from their neighbourhood.

## Purpose

This policy specifies the enrolment criteria for students seeking enrolment at Riverbend Primary School and the evidence required to support applications for enrolment.

## Scope

Riverbend Primary School is a designated neighbourhood school with a designated neighbourhood zone (school zone).

This policy applies to:

- i. students seeking enrolment who live within or outside the school zone; and
- ii. students with disability who live outside the zone and seek priority enrolment under the specialist enrolment criteria.

## ENROLMENT CRITERIA AND PRIORITY ORDER OF PLACEMENT

School aged students who reside permanently within the school zone are eligible to enrol at Riverbend Primary School. All students who reside permanently within the school zone are guaranteed a place.

Students may also apply for a place at Riverbend Primary School if they live outside the school zone. These students may be enrolled if there is sufficient accommodation at the school, or if the request for enrolment aligns with the school's enrolment management implementation plan (if one is in place).

## Specialist enrolment criteria

The following specialist enrolment criteria have been specified and approved by the Regional Director, South-Western Victoria Region (as the Minister's delegate), under section 2.2.16(b) of the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* (Vic).

Students seeking priority enrolment under the specialist enrolment criteria must have a diagnosis for **intellectual disability** from a registered psychologist evidenced by:

- A. sub-average general intellectual functioning which is demonstrated by a full-scale score of two standard deviations or more below the mean score on a standardised individual test of general intelligence, for example a full-scale score of 70 or below on one of the recommended standardised individual tests of intelligence;  
and
- B. significant deficits in adaptive behaviour established by a composite score of two standard deviations or more below the mean on an approved standardised test of adaptive behaviour, for example a Vineland Adaptive Behaviour Scales composite score of 70 or below;  
and
- C. a history and evidence of an ongoing problem with an expectation of continuation during the school years.

Applications from out-of-zone students with disability who do not meet the above criteria may be prioritised on a case-by-case basis by the region, in consultation with the principal, considering the student's education and support needs. Such applications can only be prioritised with approval from the Regional Director, South-Western Victoria Region (or delegate). For more information, see [Enrolment in specialist schools](#).

## Priority order of placement

If there is not sufficient accommodation to accept all applications from students living outside the zone, Riverbend Primary School will prioritise applications in line with their enrolment management implementation plan (if one is in place). In the absence of an enrolment management implementation plan, Riverbend Primary School will manage enrolment applications in accordance with the following priority order of placement:

1. students with a sibling at the same permanent address who are attending the school at the same time
2. students who meet the specialist enrolment criteria outlined above
3. all other students in order of closeness of their home to the school.

If there is not sufficient accommodation to accept all applications from students who meet the specialist enrolment criteria (once in-zone and out-of-zone sibling enrolments have been confirmed), these applications will be prioritised in order of closeness of their home to the school.

Riverbend Primary School may stop prioritising applications from out-of-zone students who meet the specialist enrolment criteria if the total number of enrolled students with disability who require extensive adjustments<sup>1</sup> exceeds 10% of the current student population. This will ensure that Riverbend Primary School can continue to offer the highest quality education and support for all

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<sup>1</sup> The 'total number of enrolled students with disability who require extensive adjustments' includes (but is not necessarily limited to) all enrolled students who attract *Program for Students with Disabilities* funding or Tier 3 *Disability Inclusion* funding, regardless of whether those students live in the school zone or meet the specialist enrolment criteria. [Riverbend Primary School], in consultation with the regional office, will determine the total number of enrolled students with disability who require extensive adjustments in Term 3 of each school year.

students, including students with disability. Should this condition come into effect, all applications from students who live outside the zone (including those who meet the specialist enrolment criteria) will be prioritised in line with the department's [Placement Policy](#).

### Evidence and supporting information requirements for the specialist enrolment criteria

To support a student's application for enrolment under the specialist enrolment criteria, a signed psychologist's report from within the last 24 months reporting the results of an IQ test and an assessment of adaptive behaviour is required.

The department provides assessment services to help supported inclusion schools determine whether the student meets the specialist enrolment criteria. The department's regional offices also play a role in helping schools with enrolment processes.

**NOTE: Enrolment applications may not be successful if the requested documentation is not provided or is invalid.**

### Verification of permanent address

When assessing enrolment applications under the priority order of placement, Riverbend Primary School may ask for supporting documentation to assist them in verifying a student's permanent residence. For more information, see [Determining permanent residence](#).

### Enrolment on compassionate grounds

In exceptional circumstances, the Regional Director South-Western Region, may approve a student enrolment at Riverbend Primary School based on compassionate grounds. This is an overarching consideration and does not form part of Riverbend Primary School's enrolment criteria or priority order of placement. Further advice and support when considering applications on compassionate grounds is available on the [Policy and Advisory Library](#) and from regional staff.

### APPEAL PROCESS

Parents/carers can appeal against the decision not to approve an enrolment at Riverbend Primary School. This can occur in relation to enrolments at any age or year level. Further information on appeals can be found at [Appealing enrolment decisions](#).

### POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy approved by	Principal - April 2026
Next scheduled review date	Before April 2030