



Ascot Vale Special School

"Learning for life"

STUDENT AGE AND YEAR LEVEL POLICY

Rationale

Students at Ascot Vale Special School often enter Prep in the year they turn 7 or older and/or 'repeat' one or more years at their previous mainstream school. If these students continue their standard progression through the year levels they will finish Year 12 in the year in which they turn 19 or older.

This is not permitted within the *Education and Training Reform Regulations 2007* unless otherwise determined through an application to the DET.

In the DET Guidelines for Continuation of PSD Funding for Students, it states that for consideration of continuation of PSD funding for a student turning 19 the student must be enrolled at that school solely for the purpose of completing an *accredited senior secondary course* which includes the full intermediate or senior level of the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL). Therefore, those students completing the foundation level of the VCAL program are not eligible to apply.

Year level	Age turned in that year	Learning Area
Prep	6	Primary
Year 1	7	Primary
Year 2	8	Primary
Year 3	9	Primary
Year 4	10	Primary
Year 5	11	Primary
Year 6	12	Primary
Year 7	13	Secondary
Year 8	14	Secondary
Year 9	15	Secondary
Year 10	16	Secondary
Year 11	17	Secondary
Year 12	18	Secondary

Students who are in the correct year level for their age when they commence Prep, or enter from their prior school, will continue through to Year 12 in a standard progression (as shown in the table above).

Students who are not at the correct age when they commence school for the first time will commence in **Prep** and will then progress through Primary School then they must enter Year 7 (Secondary School) in the year that they turn 13.

Students, who are not in the correct year level for their age when they enter from their **prior school**, will enter at the year level and learning area as shown in the table above. They will then continue through to Year 12 in a standard progression.

DET Guidelines for Continuation of PSD Funding for Students

Background

The Program for Students with Disabilities (PSD) is an additional program for a defined student population with moderate to severe disabilities. The PSD supports the education of students with disabilities in Victorian government schools by providing schools with additional resources.

The *Education and Training Reform Regulations 2007* (as amended by the Education and Training Reform Amendment (Age Requirements) Regulations 2009) prescribe age requirements for enrolment and attendance at government schools. These regulations specify maximum age requirements for Government schools.

Under these regulations, in general terms, students are required to finish school in the year that they turn 18, unless they are completing an accredited senior secondary course, in which case they may be enrolled in the school year that they turn 19.

Where a student is turning 20 years or older in a school year, there are further restrictions on enrolment as outlined below in more detail. The Minister also has the power to grant a specific exemption from the maximum age requirements in certain prescribed circumstances under Regulation 12F. Further information (including the full text of the Regulations) can be accessed from Age Requirement Regulations.

Student Wellbeing Division is responsible for handling applications for continuation of PSD funding for students who are turning 19 or older in the respective school year, and completing an accredited senior secondary course in government mainstream and specialist schools.

Requirements

For consideration of continuation of PSD funding for a student turning 19 in (the following year), the enrolment must comply with the *Education and Training Reform Regulations 2007*. The student must be:

- enrolled in a Victorian government mainstream or specialist school; and
- enrolled at that school solely for the purpose of completing an *accredited senior secondary course* in (the following year)
- ‘completing’ refers to sufficient units or courses of study, which, if satisfactorily completed will result in the student completing the course.

For consideration of continuation of PSD funding for a student turning 20 or older in (the following year), the enrolment must comply with the *Education and Training Reform Regulations 2007*. The student must be:

- enrolled in a Victorian government mainstream or specialist school solely in an accredited senior secondary course in (the current year); and
- that the school is situated outside the metropolitan area; and

- there is no TAFE institute or other registered education or training organisation (other than another government school) offering an accredited senior secondary course within a distance that can be travelled within 45 minutes by using public transport or a school bus service closest to the person's place of residence; and
- there is no TAFE or other registered education or training organisation through which the person could reasonably undertake an accredited senior secondary course by correspondence or other method of study.

An accredited senior secondary course is one which leads to a *senior secondary qualification* and any other accredited course pertaining to year 11 or 12 or its equivalent.

In Victoria, the available senior secondary qualifications are:

- Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)
- Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL)
- International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB Diploma).

References

Program for Students with Disabilities – Guidelines for 2017

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by AVSS School Council on: 12th September, 2017