

Enrolment Policy

Barwon Valley School is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people and has zero tolerance for child abuse. (Child Safe Standards)



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Barwon Valley School

BACKGROUND

Barwon Valley School provides educational programs for students with an intellectual disability (IQ below 50)

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.

Specialist schools, including Barwon Valley School have been established to cater for the specific educational needs of students with a disability or with additional needs. Under State and Federal discrimination law, specialist schools are permitted to set specific enrolment criteria and to not enrol students who do not meet these criteria.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to specify the enrolment criteria for students seeking enrolment at Barwon Valley School and the evidence required to support applications for enrolment.

It is intended to provide clarity for the local community on the enrolment criteria and ensure a smooth and supported transition for enrolling students.

Scope

Enrolment at Barwon Valley School is based on a student's disability and associated educational needs. Subject to capacity, student intake may be at any stage of the year, providing the student is of school age and satisfies the eligibility criteria. All applications for enrolment at Barwon Valley School require regional approval.

ENROLMENT CRITERIA

The following enrolment criteria have been specified and approved by the Regional Director, South West Victoria Region (as the Minister's delegate) under section 2.2.16(b) of the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* (Vic). A student's enrolment will be reviewed periodically in line with their needs.

Students seeking to enrol must have:

- A diagnosis of Intellectual Disability from a registered psychologist
- FSIQ 50 or below
- Vineland of 70 or below

Applications from students who do not meet the above criteria will be considered on a case-by-case

basis by the region, in consultation with the principal, in consideration of the student’s education and support needs. The Regional Director, South West Victoria Region (or delegate) must approve enrolments for students who do not meet the eligibility criteria.

PRIORITY ORDER OF PLACEMENT

There is a process for priority order of placement and that ongoing enrolments are not guaranteed in special settings.

EVIDENCE AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

To support a student’s application for enrolment, the following evidence and supporting information should be provided: A signed psychologist’s report from within the last 24 months reporting the results of an IQ test and assessment of adaptive behaviour.

The Department provides assessment services to support specialist schools in determining whether the student meets their enrolment criteria. Department regional offices also play a role in supporting specialist schools with enrolment processes.

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

APPEAL PROCESS

Parents/carers can appeal against the decision not to approve an enrolment by requesting a non-standard enrolment. This can occur in relation to enrolments at any age or year level. Further information on appeals can be found at [Enrolment: Enrolment in specialist schools | education.vic.gov.au](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/enrolment/enrolment-in-specialist-schools).

COMMUNICATIONS

The Barwon Valley School enrolment policy will be made available to the school community on the school’s website.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last review date	8/10/2024
Policy approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	8/10/2028