

Okaihau College Policy on: Inclusive Education for Children with Special Needs

PURPOSE:

Children with Special Needs have the right to receive an education appropriate to their learning, social and physical ability.

POLICY:

1. Every child shall receive an education appropriate to his/her needs.
2. Staff teaching/working with children with special needs shall receive appropriate training and/or support.
3. Resources and support are necessary to meet the educational, social, physical and emotional needs of the children within the school. Modified programmes and teacher aide support will be allocated.
4. The role of the parent/caregiver is recognised and valued in the education of their child.

PROCEDURES:

1. This policy applies to students identified and assessed by the Verification Process as having high/very high needs or are funded through ACC.
2. The H.O.D. Special Needs will oversee the management of children with special needs to ensure that a non-categorical and needs-based programme is established. The basis of the programme will be a regularly reviewed Individual Education Programme (IEP) developed alongside parents/caregivers, Okaihau College staff, specialist educators, RTLB, teacher-aides and others relevant to the child's education, including the child him/herself where appropriate.
3. Any special funding obtained for children with special needs will be spent in providing the additional teaching or resources required by those children for whom application was made.
4. The school will respect and protect the privacy of the child with special needs and his/her family. Ref. Policy on Confidentiality and Staff Safety.
5. Teachers will foster an atmosphere that celebrates diversity and inclusion.
6. When appropriate, students with special needs will have access to their curriculum within mainstream classes. Teachers of children with special needs will be given the support of the school, other staff members and BOT. Professional development funding will be made available for the Teacher/Support staff to further their training appropriate to the children's needs.

RESPONSIBILITY:

For those students regularly in mainstream classes the responsibility for the teaching programme, assessment and reporting will remain with the subject teacher in consultation with the HOD Special Needs and Specialist Teacher.

The HOD Special Needs will be responsible for the overall co-ordination and evaluation of programmes and for the overall co-ordination of programmes administered by support staff.

EVALUATION:

The HOD Special Needs will report in writing to the Principal on the effectiveness of the Special Needs Programmes twice a year.