Statement

The College Psychologist will conduct appropriate psychological and psycho-educational assessments as part of the follow up and care of MacKillop Catholic College students who have been referred for help and/or evaluation.

Definition

Psychological and psycho-educational assessment is the process of obtaining data about human functioning in the areas of personality, emotional status, social skills and adjustment, intelligence and cognitive functioning, scholastic aptitude, adaptive behaviour, language and communication skills, academic knowledge and achievement, family/environmental/cultural influences, career and vocational development, aptitude and interests. *¹ The purpose of such assessments is identifying critical factors and evaluating their importance for educational outcomes.

The term parent in this document means a custodial parent or parents or legal guardian. *¹. Australian Psychological Society (APS) Standards for Delivery of School Psychological Services (2000)

Rationale

Psychological and psycho-educational assessments are sometimes required to answer referral questions; to provide necessary information for funding applications; to inform recommendations for special provisions in education (including curriculum differentiation); to evaluate treatment and psycho-educational interventions; and to facilitate referrals to outside professionals.

Guidelines

1. Students may be referred to the College Psychologist by concerned staff or parents.

2. Psychological assessment shall be provided only by psychologists currently or provisionally registered and operating under the requirement of the Psychologists Registration Board of Tasmania.

3. The Psychologist will operate within the current Australian Psychologists Society Standards, Codes and Guidelines.

4. The Psychologist will seek permission of the custodial parent/s prior to conducting assessments of intelligence, cognitive functioning and scholastic achievement.

5. By giving permission for psycho-educational assessment at MacKillop Catholic College, the parent is also agreeing that the report is made available to the College Principal. Wider distribution within the College is subject to the parent’s further consideration and permission after discussion with the Psychologist.

6. The Psychologist will provide written and verbal explanation and interpretations of the results of this assessment together with the recommendations emanating from the assessment.

7. The scheduling of psycho-educational assessments will be determined by the perceived need of the College to provide for the educational needs of the respective students on the waiting list. Parents will be informed that psycho-educational assessment services are available in the private sector if they want to access this service sooner than can be provided in the College.