Statement

Students, staff, parents and caregivers can be enabled to achieve according to their individual potential in all aspects of College life.

Definition

**EQUITY:** The concept of equal access to school education and the fair and just distribution of benefits from the school education system. The National Strategy for Equity in School, 1994. (from Tasmanian Catholic Education Equity Policy Document Policy No 036 : 2009)

Rationale

MacKillop Catholic College should ensure that all students, regardless of ability, have equitable access to the benefits of education for life.

‘All in school ... community should recognise it as a place where all people, including those who live in poverty or who are marginalised, disenfranchised or suffering from health conditions, have their rights and dignity upheld’. Archbishops Charter for Catholic Schools, 2008.

Guidelines

1. Principles of equity should permeate all policies and practices, not be additional or separate issues for College planning.

2. Everyone in the College community has responsibility for contributing to equity in education.

3. Opportunities for students to reach their full potential should not be hindered by religious background, ethnicity, socio-economic status, race, gender, physical or sensory ability, intellectual ability or geographic location.

4. The College will acknowledge diversities of need and life experience, respect distinctive cultural and racial and gender identities, and value contributions of all ability groups by making appropriate educational provision.

5. The College should provide a learning environment that is free from harassment, bias and discriminatory practices, and which promotes personal respect and physical and emotional safety.

6. Some students may need a greater share of resources than others to have the opportunity for equality of participation and outcomes.

7. MacKillop Catholic College Statements regarding Learning Extension, Learning Support, Aboriginal Perspectives and Gender issues programs are attached to, and form an integral part of, this policy.