

St. Mary MacKillop Primary School

Keilor Downs



St Mary MacKillop School has a strong commitment to child safety as is reflected in our Vision Statement: "In and through positive relationships, we aspire to protect all children under our care, prioritising their safety and wellbeing." We continually strive to ensure that every child is safe from harm including all forms of abuse. We exercise zero tolerance to abuse.

RATIONALE

Catholic education is intrinsic to the mission of the Church. In fact Catholic education is at the very 'heart of the Church.' It is one means by which the Church fulfils its role in assisting people to discover and embrace the fullness of Christ.

The Australian bishops established Catholic Schools in the 1860s as a key instrument of catechesis and sacramental preparation for Catholic children. Catholic schools continue to offer a broad and comprehensive curriculum imbued with an authentic Catholic understanding of Christ and his teaching, as well as a lived appreciation of membership of the Catholic Church.

St. Mary MacKillop Primary School (SMMPS) is a Catholic school primarily for Catholic children, established and owned by St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Keilor Downs/Kealba. Our concern is to ensure access for Catholic families. However local pastoral discretion is an important element of decision-making with regard to enrolment. Therefore, whilst bearing in mind that first priority is given to Catholic children within the parish, the Parish Priest and Principal are able to exercise some pastoral discretion where they deem necessary.

This policy has been developed to ensure consistency and transparency in the enrolment process and is consistent with the Catholic Education Office of Melbourne (CEOM) Enrolment Policy.

ENROLMENT PRIORITIES

The following list provides an agreed order of priority for enrolment in SMMPS.

St. Mary MacKillop Primary School, Keilor Downs is owned by the parish of St. Mary of the Assumption, Keilor Downs and is operated and governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS).

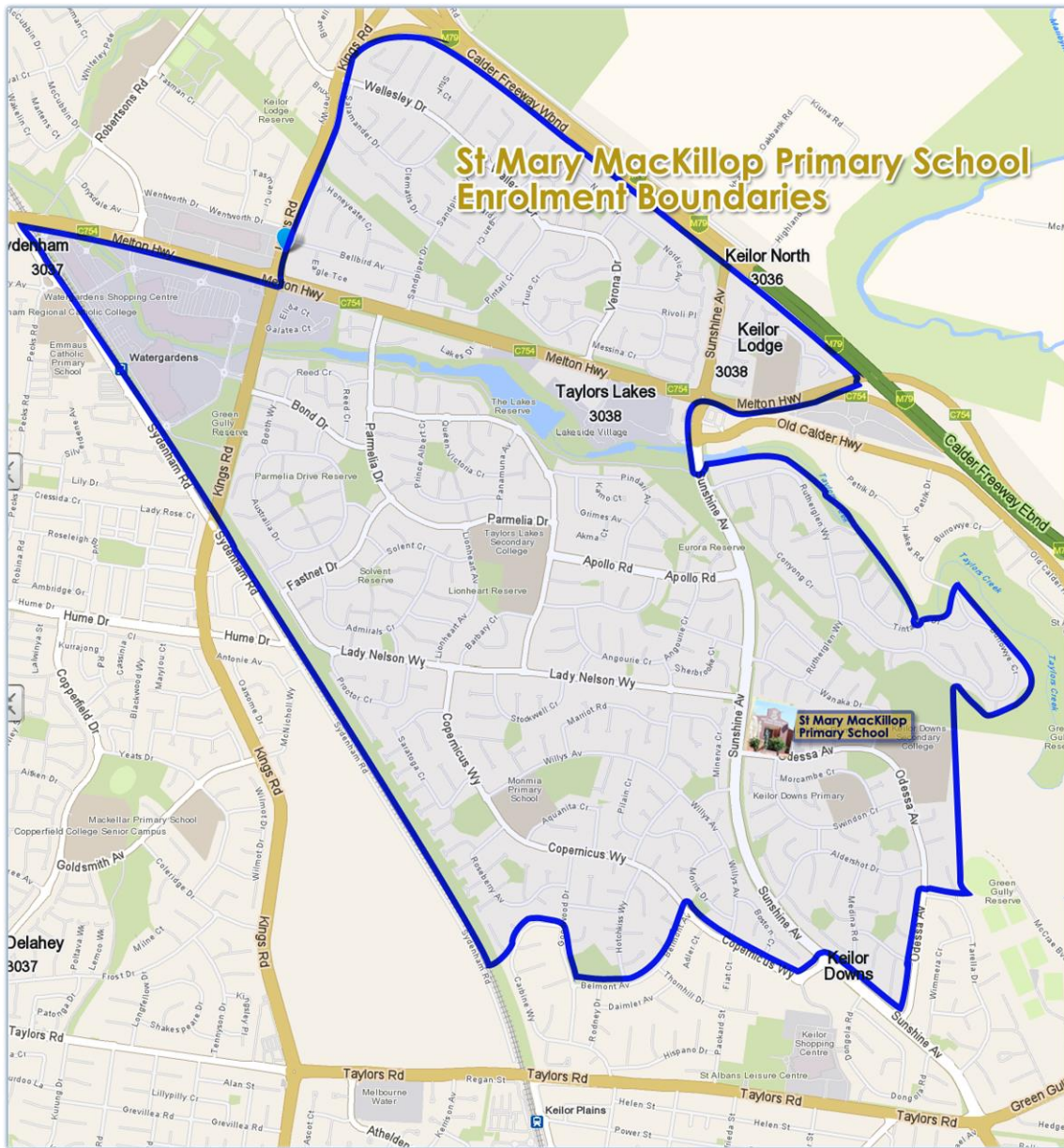
There is an agreed order of priority for enrolment in MACS Schools, which must be followed. As systemic Catholic schools, the first priority of Catholic schools is the provision of a Catholic education for Catholic children.

The order of priority for MACS primary schools is:

1. Catholic children who are residents of the parish
2. Siblings of children already enrolled in the school
3. Catholic children who are not residents of the parish but are recognised as parishioners by the parish priest
4. Catholic children from other parishes (for pastoral reasons)
5. children from non-Catholic Eastern churches (i.e. Greek Orthodox, Coptic Orthodox, Ukrainian Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, Serbian Orthodox and Other Orthodox) who are residents of the parish
6. children from non-Catholic Eastern churches (i.e. Greek Orthodox, Coptic Orthodox, Ukrainian Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, Serbian Orthodox and Other Orthodox) who reside outside the parish
7. other Christian children who are residents of the parish
8. other Christian children who reside outside the parish
9. non-Christian children who are residents of the parish
10. non-Christian children who reside outside the parish.

PARISH BOUNDARIES

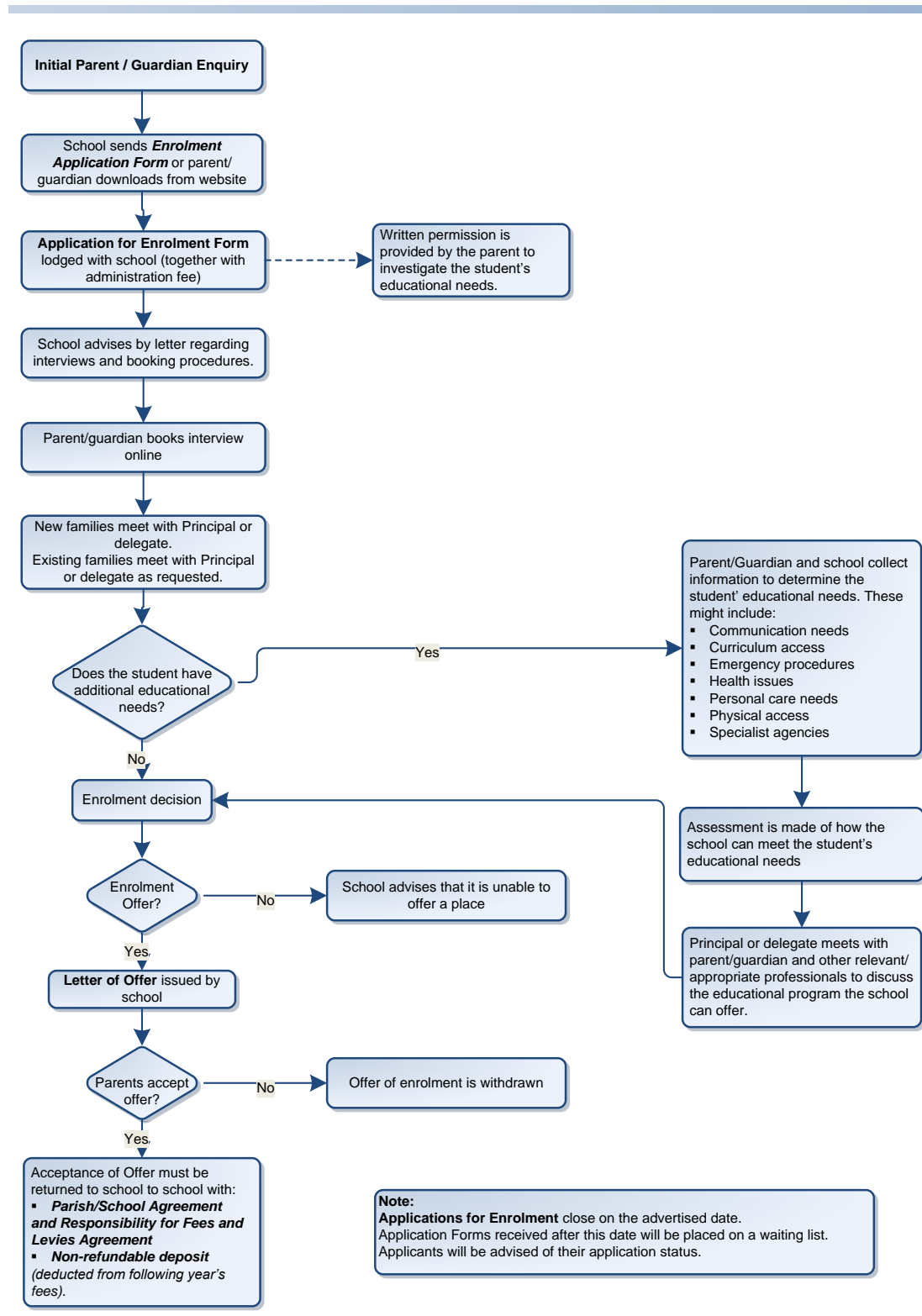
SMMPs belongs to St. Mary of the Assumption Parish. SMMPs catchment area is as follows.



ENROLMENT PROCESS & PROCEDURES

In the interest of consistency and transparency SMMPS Enrolment Policy is presented in the following flowchart.

Enrolment Process



PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Parents/Guardians as prime educators in the faith must be prepared to support the school in the Catholic education of their children. This means, but is not exclusive, that the parent/guardians recognise and support that prayer and liturgy are vital aspects of the religious life of the school and that the teachings and values of the Catholic Church are paramount.
- Parent/Guardians must recognise and be prepared to meet their financial responsibilities for the on-going enrolment of the child. However, no family will be discouraged from applying for enrolment because of financial constraints. Families who do encounter hardship whilst enrolled at the school are invited to meet with the Principal or delegate to discuss their needs. The school will always endeavour to support those families who are genuine in their requests (through, for example, alternate repayment schedules, if appropriate).
- Parents/Guardians must advise the Principal/delegate of any Court Order(s) that may exist in regard to the child, or any changes to Court Order(s) and provide a copy of the Court Order(s) and any subsequent changes.
- Parents/Guardians must be prepared to support the parish with a nominal contribution invoiced by the parish.
- Parents/Guardians must supply the school with a Health Immunisation Certificate.

MINIMUM ENTRY AGE

The minimum starting age for a child to be enrolled in a Victorian school is four years and eight months, i.e. a child must turn five years of age by 30 April in the year starting school.

ONGOING ENROLMENT

The school may choose to convene a Re-Enrolment Meeting as it deems necessary. This meeting may be called in response to a breach of parental/guardian responsibilities or a breach of school policy.

It may also be called if issues of an ongoing nature between the family and school are not resolved.

Developed 2008
Reviewed and Updated 2012
Reviewed and Updated 2015
Reviewed and Updated 2017
Reviewed and Updated 2021