

**ST FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

**SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION POLICY**

**RATIONALE**

At St Francis Xavier Catholic School, a child who has learning, communication, emotional, behavioural difficulties, intellectual, sensory, or physical impairments is identified as a Special Needs pupil.

# PURPOSE

# Special education is the provision of differentiated assistance, programmes or learning environments and specialised equipment to support learners to access the curriculum in a range of settings.

By acknowledging that we are all created in the image and likeness of God, we ensure that the school is inclusive of children with special needs.

# GUIDELINES

1. At St Francis Xavier Catholic School, learners with a disability, learning, or behavioural difficulty may receive special education support. Subject to Ministry of Education support and school funding, this may well include the provision of assistive equipment, teacher aide support, RTLB (Resource Teacher Learning and Behaviour) intervention or specialist referrals.
2. The Special Education Grant is to be accessed to provide the learner with the resources that he/she needs. This may include teacher, learning assistant support, assistive equipment and staff training to better equip the learner with the necessary skills so that they may enjoy the same educational opportunities as people of the same age.
3. The SENCO (Special Needs Co-ordinator) and Principal will undertake a needs analysis assessment of the school and will then determine how the special needs grant should be allocated.
4. The SENCO will maintain an up to date Special Needs Register.
5. The Special Needs Co-ordinator and the Principal, will access and submit information to the Ministry of Education, Group Special Education Service or local management committees in order to provide for the needs of identified pupils. Grants and applications for the Ongoing Resourcing Scheme will be made as appropriate.
6. A partnership between parents, whanau and teachers is paramount. Every effort will be made to liaise with parents/caregivers of children receiving special needs support.

*Approved By: Mrs Kathryn Weir*

 *Chairperson*

*Date Reviewed: Term 2, 2017*

*To Be Reviewed: Term 2, 2020*