PREAMBLE

Parents are the first educators of their children and have the obligation and the right to ensure an adequate education, consistent with their beliefs and values.

Once a child becomes a member of the Catholic Church through Baptism the parents and the Church have a commitment towards its new member. One of the obligations is to give the child the opportunity to be educated as a Catholic. Traditionally in Australia, the majority of baptised children have been given this formation through Catholic schooling. In this way, the Church exercises its commitment and responsibility.

“Catholic education is based on an educational philosophy in which faith, culture and life are brought into harmony. Of its nature, the Catholic school guides men and women to achieve human and Christian perfection and helps them to become mature in the faith,”1. Thus the Catholic school is not simply an alternative to a Government school. It is different because it is Catholic: it must offer the authentic Catholic vision. “A Catholic school cannot relinquish its own freedom to proclaim the Gospel and to offer a formation based on the values to be found in a Christian education. This is its right and its duty.”2. It is to be expected that Catholic schools implement enrolment policies that ensure a high proportion of Catholic students in the school.

2. Paragraph 6 Ibid.

CRITERIA FOR ENROLMENT OF STUDENTS WHO ARE BAPTISED CATHOLICS

1. Priority of Access to St. Anthony’s is given to students who are Baptised Catholics provided that there are places available.

2. A normal criterion for enrolment of a Baptised Catholic student at St. Anthony’s is that the student is a resident of the catchment area for St. Anthony’s School, Lara.

3. Each child seeking access to the school, regardless of whether any other members of the family attend the school, needs to apply through the normal application process. Siblings will usually be given priority, provided that accepted processes are followed.

4. Catholic children will not be deprived of a Catholic Education on the grounds that their parents do not, at that time, conform to traditional practices. Parents however, should be aware that they have an obligation to assist their child’s faith development.

5. The ability of parents to pay school fees is not used as a criterion for enrolling Catholic students at St. Anthony’s. However, it is a matter of justice to the School Community that fees are met where possible.

6. Enrolment is open to all Baptised Catholic students with respect to the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria guidelines for provision for students with special needs.

7. Catholic children from Eastern Rites are welcome on the same basis as Catholic children from the Roman Rite. In all cases, Religious traditions will be respected.

8. Parents need to be aware that acceptance at St. Anthony’s Primary School does not mean automatic acceptance at another Catholic Primary or Secondary School. Every school has their own enrolment processes.
CRITERIA FOR ENROLMENT OF STUDENTS WHO ARE NOT BAPTISED CATHOLICS

Students who are not Baptised Catholics may be accepted at St. Anthony’s Primary School according to the following criteria:

1. That there are places available and Catholic Students will not be excluded due to the inclusion of students who are not Catholic.

2. A normal criterion for enrolment of a student at St. Anthony’s is that the student is a resident of the catchment area for St. Anthony’s School, Lara.

3. That parents applying for enrolment of students who are not Catholic are aware of the nature of the school and undertake that the culture, life and identity of the Catholic School will be respected.

4. Enrolment is open to all students with respect to the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria guidelines for provision for students with special needs.

5. The ability of parents to pay school fees is not used as a criterion for enrolling students at St. Anthony’s. However, it is a matter of justice to the School Community that fees are met where possible.

6. Parents need to be aware that acceptance at St. Anthony’s Primary School not mean automatic acceptance at another Catholic Primary or Secondary School. Every school has their own enrolment processes.

CONDITIONS OF ENROLMENT

1. Enrolment at St. Anthony’s is not automatic, but is subject to the above criteria, to the availability of places and to the discretion of the Parish Priest, in consultation with the School Principal.

2. In the process of enrolment, parents are asked to disclose relevant information by completing the Enrolment Application Form and submitting relevant documents. Failure to disclose accurate information concerning your child may negate enrolment, or continuance of enrolment.

3. There is an expectation that parents support the school, commit to the payment of fees and assist the school through the avenues open to parents.

4. If families experience financial difficulties that prevent payment of fees, the Parish Priest or Principal should be contacted.

5. For children that are currently attending State Primary Schools and seek enrolment at St. Anthony’s, there is an expectation that parents discuss their reasons with their current principal prior to any consideration at St. Anthony’s.

6. For students that do not reside in St. Anthony’s catchment area, protocols established by the Geelong Deanery require that applicants gain permission to attend a Catholic primary School outside of their parish, from their own Parish Priest.

“Let your Light Shine”