

CONSOLIDATION/ACCELERATION POLICY

Rationale:

The practice of students repeating or skipping year levels is a serious consideration. Whilst global educational research indicates that little benefit is usually obtained from such practices, there may be some instances where repeating (consolidating) or skipping (accelerating) a year level may be appropriate for a specific student.

Aims:

To provide a clear process that is to be followed any time a teacher or parent wishes to consider a student repeating or skipping a year level.

Implementation:

- Teachers at our school are required to provide programs that meet individual student needs.
- Our school does not generally organise students to repeat or skip a year level due simply to low or high academic or social achievement.
- Serious concerns relating to a child coping with the academic expectations of a particular year level are to be brought to the attention of the Principal who will oversee the child's progress, and assist in program implementation and support.
- Consolidating or accelerating students will only occur after:-
 - It can be demonstrated that the teacher has appropriately modified his/her strategies in an attempt to meet the needs of the child.
 - A clear record of academic progress supports consolidation or acceleration.
 - A formal Individual Learning Plan has been devised for the student by the teacher in consultation with the Principal and staff.
 - Parents are fully informed, are in agreement, and are fully aware of and committed to their responsibilities with regards the academic progress of their child.
 - It is believed that the child will not suffer adverse social ramifications if they are to repeat or skip a year level.
 - A belief is formed by the school and the parents, after considering all of the information available to them, that the student will benefit from either repeating or skipping a year level.
 - The approval of the principal is given.
- Consideration may also be given to young students repeating a year level due to severe maturation concerns, or because a student has accrued a significant number of unavoidable absences which in turn has resulted in them experiencing academic difficulties.
- Generally students will not repeat a class if the child is older or physically more mature than the majority of his/her classmates, if they have already repeated a year level, or if the child is in receipt of Disabilities funding.
- After all is considered, the ultimate decision for a child repeating a year level rests with parents.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council on....

August 2014