

# Wantirna South Primary School

## National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Policy Statement

### **Rationale**

The NDIS is a way of providing support to Australians with disability, their families and carers. The NDIS provides all Australians under the age of 65 with a permanent and significant disability with the reasonable and necessary supports they need to enjoy an ordinary life. The NDIS helps people with disability achieve their goals, including independence, community involvement, education, employment and health and wellbeing.

Wantirna South Primary School acknowledges that schools can play a significant role helping students to access the scheme along with supporting families to work with specialists to implement strategies to assist children in achieving goals.

### **Aims:**

Based on this rationale the aims of the NDIS policy is:-

- To support families in accessing the NDIS.
- To put into place agreed processes for managing request by therapists for attending Wantirna South Primary School for the purpose of observation.
- To put into place agreed processes for managing request by therapists for attending Wantirna South Primary School for the purpose of therapy.

### **Implementation:**

Consistent with the aims this policy shall be implemented according to the following guidelines:-

- Requests for information to support NDIS applications must be directed to the Principal or Assistant Principal.
- Teachers may be asked to provide information as part of the NDIS application process as directed by the Principal or Assistant Principal
- All requests by external specialists to attend Wantirna South Primary School must be directed to the Principal or Assistant Principal and through the child's parents.
- Where an external specialist wishes to attend Wantirna South Primary School for the purpose of providing therapy, an NDIS Funded Therapist Request form must be completed.
- Wantirna South Primary School will ensure School Council members are informed in relation to all requirements when considering accepting a School Council Licence agreement from a therapist.
- Wantirna South Primary School is limited in the ability to provide appropriate space and supervision in line with Child Safety Standards and therefore protocols and expectations will be circulated upon receipt of requests for therapy before tabling with School Council for approval.
- Wantirna South Primary School will administer an annual charge of \$150.00 to the therapist in order to recoup costs for the hire of the room, and to accommodate the use of facilities.
- Requests for Therapy will be restricted to during school hours in order to accommodate the therapy with the ability to ensure child safety.
- Therapy sessions will occur in the classroom office space during learning component times (excluding recess and lunch time).
- Wantirna South Primary School acknowledges the therapies funded by the NDIS are related to the participant's functional whole of life support needs, and not for educational purposes. The responsibility of therapy for educational attainment (and for students supported through the Program for Students with Disabilities) remains with the education system. On this basis, Wantirna South Primary School will continue to engage therapists and access therapy from Student Support Services to provide educational supports.

## **Responsibilities**

Parents/Guardians will:

- Complete the NDIS Request and Parent Consent Form
- Provide the NDIS Request form in adequate time to be tabled with School Council.
- Meet with school leadership, where relevant, to discuss requests
- Coordinate visits by communicating with the therapist and the school

Class teacher will:

- Provide information as requested by the Principal/Assistant Principal
- Support students by including recommendations from therapists where applicable and practical
- Provide a differentiated curriculum and support students through making “reasonable adjustments” to ensure students with a disability are able to access their education on the same basis as their peers

Contractors/Therapists will:

- Complete the NDIS Funded Therapist Request form so that all requests may be considered
- Complete Information Sharing Agreement and adhere to the actions within
- Complete the School Council Licence
- Provide relevant documentation as stated in the Wantirna South Primary School contractors handbook and the School Council Licence
- Ensure payment of the hire of the room is paid in line with the conditions of the invoice.

The Principal/Assistant Principal will:

- Consider requests and notify parents in writing of the outcome of all requests.
- Liaise with contractors/therapists to ensure all relevant paperwork is completed
- Ensure that all arrangements are consistent with Wantirna South Primary School Child Safe, Contractors and OHS policies

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the DET Policy:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/Pages/attendance.aspx>

## **Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle or earlier as required.  
Reference for DET guidelines

This policy was ratified by School Council on October 24<sup>th</sup> 2018.