



The Mercy Voice

Term 2 Issue 1
29 April — 10 May
2019

In this Issue:

Page

1. Principal's Message
3. Director of Mission & RE
6. Mercy Girls inspire
7. Student News
10. Co-curricular Activities
12. P&F News
14. Parent News

Upcoming Events:

TERM 2

WEEK THREE

14-16 May—NAPLAN Testing

WEEK FOUR

**21 May—Year 7 Parent
Teacher Interviews**

**23-24 May—Bronze Duke of
Edinburgh hike**

**23 May—BSSSA Open
Soccer Gala Day**

**23 May—Year 10 Drama
Excursion**

**24 May—Year 10 CYMSA
Excursion**

**24 May—Year 11 Chemistry
Excursion**

**24 May—Year 12 Chemistry
Excursion**

24 May—Year 8 Dance

Dear Parents and Carers,

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that all families had a happy and blessed Easter. For many of us it was a time to renew our connection to the resurrection story as well as having special time with our families. For Christians in Sri Lanka however, it was a time of sorrow when churches and hotels in Colombo were attacked killing nearly 300 people.

I share with you the words of Fr David Ranson (Broken Bay Diocesan Administrator)

We left our church streaming into the beautiful day with every sense of the opportunity that Easter brings us. Our brothers and sisters in Sri Lanka did not. They came to celebrate life; yet they found death. They came to share peace; instead they met violence. They came to be sprinkled with water; instead they left covered in blood. The juxtaposition between the hopes of our brothers and the sisters last Easter morning and the horrific reality of that day could not be stronger. Blessedness gives way to brutality; joy evaporates into despair; love dissolves into fear. The very order of Easter which ordinarily has Easter follow Good Friday was reversed. Heaven became hell.

The months ahead will be a time of grief, healing and rebuilding for these parish communities. Broken Bay school communities are encouraged to consider how they might most appropriately express their solidarity and support for our brothers and sisters in Sri Lanka including communications, prayer and donations to the Catholic Mission Appeal. If you feel you can make a contribution please go to:

<https://catholicmission.org.au/reach-out-to-sri-lanka>

TRIVIA NIGHT: The P&F Trivia Night is on Saturday 7 September this year. In the past it has been a wonderful night of fun with healthy competition between tables of parents, friends and staff. Save the date and go to the trybooking site mentioned later in this newsletter to book your table.

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DATES: The culture at Mercy is one where we share the desire to learn, not just student learning but also teacher learning. This year we are taking the opportunity to tap into two high quality speakers who will be in Australia in August: Mary McAleese (Former President of Ireland) on the 9 August and Dylan Williams (Emeritus Professor of Educational Assessment, University College London) on the 21 August.

I am letting you know these dates well in advance as they will be pupil free days. They will replace the usual end of term pupil free days, so students are expected to be at school on the last days of both Terms 2 and 3.



Message from Principal

HAPPY MOTHERS' DAY: Thursday morning was a little chilly but bright, with expectations for a lovely sunny day to come. Five hundred mums and daughters gathered in the school grounds to share a tasty breakfast to celebrate Mothers' Day. There was a lot of lively conversations and shared stories with promises of doing something special for their mum on Sunday.

I would like to wish all mothers, grandmothers and significant mother figures a very special day filled with laughter and happiness, and I offer this prayer for you.

Loving God,

We thank you for your gift of mothers.

We thank you and remember those mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers who have gone before us, but who live forever in our memories and in our hearts and still guide and support us with their love.

We remember mothers who in this world of crime and war are torn away from their children and pray they feel your constant loving embrace.

Thank you Lord, for the love and care our mothers give us.

Thank you for blessing them with patience, understanding, concern and kindness.

Bless them Lord and give them strength.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Best wishes

Suzanne Kavanagh

Principal

YEAR 12 RETREAT 2019

The theme of our Year 12 Retreat, was "journey", and gave us the opportunity to stop and reflect as a Year group on the journey we have collectively experienced so far. We had been looking forward to getting away from the stress of Year 12 and an eleven week term, understanding the value of being given this time to bond and strengthen our relationships with each other.

After arriving by bus at the Edmund Rice Centre in Mulgoa, Ms Stojanovski and Ms Gange welcomed us to our retreat. The ice breakers that started our retreat experience revealed our cohort's competitive streak. This was followed by an introduction to the importance of Retreat as a significant aspect of our lives and faith. The small group sessions led by the teacher facilitators, helped us form new relationships and peel away our layers to reveal more of ourselves. We shared the significance of the sacred retreat item we had brought, and then used these to create our sacred space which gave us a sense of ownership over our Retreat experience.

Miss Gange then gave a powerful testimony about her own life journey, sharing the key events and people who have shaped her faith. This prompted us to reflect on our past, which linked to our next experience of being embarrassed by baby photos, before moving on to refining our skills in active listening. Mrs D'Arcy organised a speed dating activity through which we participated in conversations with peers we don't always get to chat to, prompting shared opinions and understanding. After dinner, the real competition began in the form of a trivia night, and Ms Morgan later performed a peaceful meditation.

After being woken up by the teachers and playing an intense game of balloon and string, we were reminded of our capacity to have a positive impact on the people around us as Ms Gange inspired us to cultivate a culture of affirmations. Ms Stojanovski then shared her personal faith journey, allowing us to reflect on our own, and reminding us that it's OK to experience adversity, and that faith might be the missing piece in our lives. This was further represented through a jigsaw puzzle game, which illustrated that God can complete the puzzle that is our lives.

Ms Symons took us on a journey of four generations of women in her family, conveying the first love we all experienced between parent and child. This connection was further expressed through messages received from our family, affirmations of how proud they are of us. Later that evening, we were blessed with the presence of our Parish Priest, Father Jim McKeon, who helped us celebrate Mass. Filled with symbols our class had chosen to represent ourselves, this ceremony was an emotional experience with the community we have come to belong to as Mercy girls.

The bedtime story Ms Kavanagh read to us following the Mass, Dr Seuss' *Oh, the Places You'll Go*, gave us a sense of gentle reassurance during this uncertain transitory period. Ms Kavanagh's words offered confidence that we were prepared to take our place in the wider community, our values having been shaped by our experiences at Mercy. On the final day, we looked towards the life beyond the HSC, reflecting on the future we hope to create for ourselves.

Retreat was a time to cherish the memories we have created at Mercy, and prepare ourselves for the challenging, but exciting times ahead. All of Year 12 are incredibly grateful to the teachers who accompanied us and gave up their time to lead us in this wonderful experience.

Sarah B – College Captain

YEAR 12 RETREAT PHOTO GALLERY



MERCY & ST PIUS X OLD YOUTH MASS
Sunday 26 May 5:30pm

The next Mercy & St Pius Youth Mass will be held on Sunday Evening at OLD Church at 5:30pm.

The details are:

Date: Sunday 26 May
Mass: Youth Mass
Time: 5:30pm
BBQ and Social Activities: 6:30 – 8:00pm



If you would like to be involved in the music ministries you will need to arrive at 4:30pm. All other ministries such as reader, offertory procession, Eucharistic Minister etc you will need to arrive at 5:00pm.

Ms Gabie Stojanovski
Director of Mission & Religious Education

Mercy Girls who are excelling in the Softball world at the moment

Lauren T Year 9, together with Matilda N and Lily A, both in Year 8, are members of the Under 16 North Shore softball team that won the 2019 U16 NSW State Softball Championship in April.

The Championship was held over two days at Blacktown International Sportspark. The North Shore team played in 7 games, taking out the title undefeated.

All three girls were also members of the Broken Bay Softball team that competed at the CCCS tournament earlier this year.



U/13 BBSSA SOCCER GALA DAY 2019

Congratulations to the U/13 Mercy Soccer Team for defeating Mount St Benedicts in the Grand Finals at the Broken Bay Gala Day.

The following players represented Mercy on Thursday 2 May at Cromer Park:

Eliza A
Gemma F
Tahlia F
Ariana GP
Imogen H
Grace I
Jasmin K
Anna K
Charlize K
Calista M
Ilenia M
Saoirse M
Isabella S



In Pool A Mercy's first game was against a very strong Stella Maris team and resulted in a nil all score. The under thirteens then went on to convincingly defeat both St Joseph's and St Bridget's with goals coming from Imogen H, Jasmine K, Ariana GP and Gemma F.

Mercy came first in their Pool and played a confident and well drilled St Leo's team in the Semi Finals defeating them by 3 goals to zero.

Fortunately the team was able to have a 45 minute break to re-fuel and rest before the Grand Final against Mount St Benedicts. This game was a nail biter in the first 5 minutes with Mount St Benedicts testing Mercy's defence with several shots at goals. However, at half time Mercy was leading by one goal to zero, shot by Calista M and were then able to put away 2 more goals to seal the match. Congratulations to Imogen H who was awarded Player of the Match, having scored 2 of the 3 goals.

A huge thank you goes to Olivia K (Year 10 student) who did an awesome job as assistant coach to the under thirteen players.

Ms Jenny Paton
Teacher – Geography and PDHPE



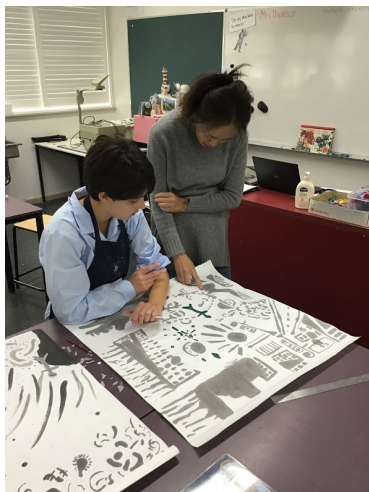
SHADOW STORIES

Over the past couple of months Year 9 and 10 Visual Arts students, have had the exciting opportunity to work with practicing local artist Tianli Zu to create stories of self using paper and ink, light and shadow. Tianli Zu is an internationally recognised artist who creates largescale paper cut installations such as *I Dance with You* which will feature in the forthcoming Vivid Sydney at Chatswood Festival. The students have had the opportunity to see her work, engage with her practice and be mentored by her. The culmination of their experience will be to create an exhibition *Shadow Stories*, which will be held in the Foyer Exhibition Space of Willoughby City Council Chambers.

This project has been made possible through a grant from the Willoughby City Council and the school acknowledges their contribution to making this project possible.

The exhibition will be on display in the Foyer Exhibition Space of the Willoughby City Council from May 29 - June 21, open during business hours. An official opening will be held on Wednesday 29 May from 4.00 – 5.30pm.

Jane Lennon
Creative Arts Coordinator



Mercy Catholic College
Shadow Stories
An exhibition by
Year 9 and 10 Visual Arts students
under the mentoring of artist Tianli Zu

Official opening 4.00 - 5.30pm
Wednesday 29 May

Willoughby City Council Foyer
31 Victoria Street, Chatswood
Exhibition open 29 May - 21 June

Willoughby City Council is gratefully acknowledged
for sponsoring this project and
for the provision of the Foyer Exhibition Space



Year 12 Visit to the French Film Festival

On the 25th of March, the Year 12 French class went to the Palace Central cinema to watch '*The Trouble With You*' supporting the French Film Festival 2019. One may also note that our class had a French listening exam the next day, so we got some good listening practice from the film!

The afternoon viewing was filled with adults triple our age, though we didn't cause too much trouble in the back row... The film began and we switched our brains into French mode, with five years of learning French paying off!

The film began sombre but quickly transitioned to an action romance with lots of French humour. It was about a Riviera police officer who discovers her late husband led a criminal double life. The man who was imprisoned for her husband's crimes is released from jail and must adapt to the outside world. At the end of the film, we agreed that it was a unique plot, with the director taking us on an unforgettable adventure.

We enjoyed the film while learning about French Cinéma and acting as part of our study for our listening exam. Merci Madame Smith! We are fortunate that you took us on this excursion.

Charlotte V L
Year 12 French



BBSSA CROSS COUNTRY

On Tuesday the 7th of May, 26 girls from Mercy College competed at the BBSSA Cross Country at St Ives Showground. It was a 1.5km course, with students running in all different conditions from sand to gravel and mud, as well as the constant hills.

Students had to run the course multiple times, which made it very challenging. It was a very successful year for the College with us entering students in every age group. The girls all did very well, with everyone finishing competitively among their age groups with over 50 other students.

Special congratulations to Lucca T (1st in U15's), Sofia S (4th in U15's) and Brooke A (5th in U17's) for all being selected to represent Broken Bay and to compete at NSWCCC at Eastern Creek in June. They will represent us well!

Also, special mention to the girls in the U14's, with Mercy overall placing 2nd in that age group, and to the U17's, with Mercy placing 3rd in that age group. Out of 10 girls schools Mercy overall came 5th which is a great achievement and something we can all be proud of!

Well done to all the girls who competed! Special thanks to Ms Knapinski and Ms Paton for coming along and supporting us at the finish line!

Genevieve O—Year 10





Getting started!

Step 1. Download Qkr! on your Android phone or iPhone Via [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#)
iPad users can download iPhone App.

Step 2: Register

Select your Country of Residence as 'Australia' and follow the steps to register

Step 3: Find Mercy Catholic College, Chatswood

Search for Mercy Catholic College or Chatswood

Step 4: Register your Child/ren

When first accessing your school menu; you will be prompted to register your child. This allows you to make school payments on their behalf.

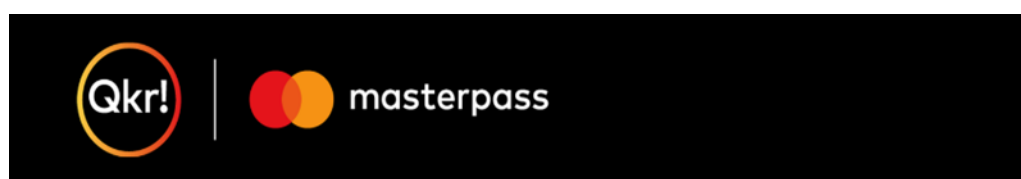
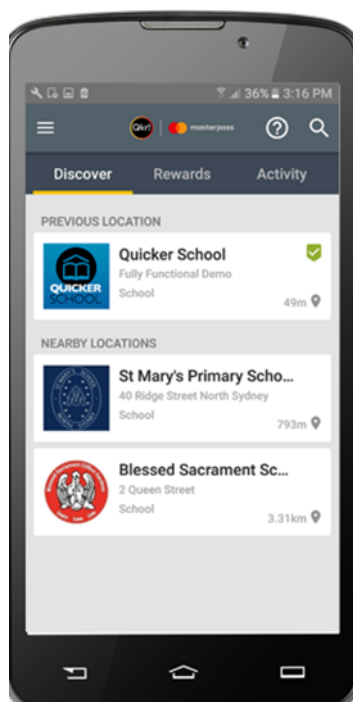
Note: The [Qkr web client](#) is available for those not wanting to complete transactions from their mobile phone.

About the Qkr! App

Qkr is a safe, secure and reliable way to pay for school items. Qkr is provided by MasterCard so you know the payments are secure. No information is stored on your phone. Registration details and card information are saved securely on the MasterCard network.

For more information please click on the link below or contact Mrs Margaret Kellendonk Co-curricular activities Administrator 9419 2890 or margaret.kellendonk@dbb.catholic.edu.au

[https:// www.mastercard.com.au/en-au/about-mastercard/who-we-are/qkr.html](https://www.mastercard.com.au/en-au/about-mastercard/who-we-are/qkr.html)



Q. How can I keep track of my Qkr! payments?

A. Itemized Qkr! eReceipts provide a record of purchase and are a convenient way to keep track of your Qkr! payments.

To view your eReceipts:

1. Open Qkr! and tap 'Activity'.
2. Scroll down to 'Order History' and tap 'Receipt' to view eReceipts.

Never lose a receipt: email receipts to your account:

1. Select the eReceipt you wish to email to yourself.
2. Tap on the mail icon at the top right of your screen.
3. Tap 'Send' to email the eReceipt to your email address, or enter another email address, and tap 'Send'.

TRIVIA

Mercy Catholic College P&F presents their annual

*Enjoy an evening
filled with trivia,
fun, games, laughter
and a fabulous
Silent Auction.*

*Purchase your tickets
trybooking.com/499554*

September 7, 2019 7:00pm HARRINGTON HALL

NIGHT

Dear Parents/Carers,

Back by popular demand, the College Trivia Night is being held on **Saturday 7th September, 2019 at 7.00pm in Harrington Hall.**

The evening will be filled with two rounds of fantastic trivia, fun, games, laughter and a fabulous Silent Auction of items. It's also a great way to meet & socialise with other parents so **BOOK YOUR TICKETS: \$30** each at

<https://www.trybooking.com/BCKZQ>

Seating Arrangement consists of tables of 8. Similar to previous years you can organise a group of friends to sit on one table (nominate the other families during your booking).

Alternatively, if you **don't have anyone to sit with - don't worry**. You can nominate via TryBooking to be seated with parents in your daughter's Year group. Feel free to add a theme to your table, dress up a little crazy or a little smart or just come as you are!

Just as we did last year, we are seeking donations for silent auction items or other prizes. The TryBooking link has an option to make a donation that will be used by the P&F Committee to purchase prizes. Alternatively, please contact Nicole Clancy via Nicole.Clancy@dbb.catholic.edu.au if you are able to facilitate a donation of goods or services. To give you an idea of donations we are looking for: if for example, you are a Tax Accountant / Chiropractor / Personal Trainer; we would welcome complimentary sessions. If you own a Restaurant / Deli / Hairdresser / Jewellery Shop; we would welcome gift vouchers, products or goods for product hamper etc.

If you would prefer to donate a bottle of wine, gift vouchers (eg DJs, Woolworths, Coles, iTunes, JB Hi-Fi. Westfield etc) these would also be gratefully received and can be forwarded to:

Nicole Clancy
Mercy College Administration
101 Archer St
Chatswood NSW 2067

If you are coming along, please bring:

Drinks: All drinks are BYO in your Esky

Food: A plate to share

Gold coins: For games

We hope you are able to join us and if so, we look forward to seeing you there.

Kind regards,

Phillipa, Carmel, Melinda and Jacqui
MCC P&F Committee

Message from Transport NSW



From **28 April** the following bus routes will be renumbered. There will be no change to the timetable, number of trips or route operated.

M40 Bondi Junction to Chatswood will be renumbered to route 340.

M41 Hurstville to Macquarie Park will be renumbered route 410.

M54 Parramatta to Macquarie Park will be renumbered route 550.

This information will be listed on transportnsw.info from **Sunday 14 April** and will help you plan ahead.

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability
All Australian schools are required to participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD).

If you require further information please contact Fiona Munro (Learning Support Coordinator).



FACT SHEET FOR PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND CARERS

WHAT IS THE NCCD?

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (the national data collection) is an annual collection that counts the number of school students receiving an adjustment due to disability and the level of adjustment they are receiving to access education on the same basis as other students.

Each of the included students has been identified by a school team as receiving a reasonable adjustment to address a disability under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.

WHY IS THIS DATA BEING COLLECTED?

All schools across Australia collect information about students with disability. However, until recently, the type of information collected has varied between each state and territory and across government, Catholic and independent school sectors. The national data collection ensures that, for the first time, information about students with disability is transparent, consistent and reliable at a national level.

A nationally consistent approach to collecting data provides evidence on:

- the number of school students receiving an adjustment due to disability
- the level of adjustment they receive
- the broad type of disability.

From 2018, the student with disability loading provided by the Australian Government is based on the national data collection. Funding is being provided via a loading at different rates based on students' received level of adjustment (supplementary, substantial or extensive). This will enable funding to be better targeted to student need as identified through the collection. Schools will continue to manage their total resources to meet the learning needs of their students based on the educational expertise of their staff.

It is important to note that states and territories are responsible for decisions about the level of funding for government schools; and non-government education systems and approved authorities are responsible for the distribution of the needs-based Commonwealth funding that they receive. While Government funding is calculated with reference to students enrolled at a school, the Government expects schools and school systems to pool their funding from all sources—Australian Government, state/territory and private—and prioritise their spending to meet the educational needs of all of their students. This is because the Government recognises that schools and school systems are best placed to understand the individual needs of students and budget accordingly.

The students with disability loading may be used for broader supports at the classroom, school and sector level, as well as for supports for individual students. Education authorities may, for example, opt to use funding for professional learning and to build capacity and inclusive cultures in schools.

Better information about school students with disability helps parents, carers, teachers, principals, education authorities and government to gain a more complete understanding of students who are receiving adjustments because of disability and how to best support them to take part in schooling on the same basis as other students.

WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE COLLECTED?

Every year, your child's school will collect the following information for each student receiving an adjustment due to disability:

- the student's year of schooling
- the student's level of adjustment
- the student's broad type of disability.

If a student has multiple disabilities, the school team, using their professional judgement, selects the broad category of disability that has the greatest impact on his/her access to education and for which adjustments are being provided.

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When undertaking the national data collection, every school in Australia uses the same method to collect information. Therefore, a government school in suburban Sydney collects and submits data in the same way as a Catholic school in country Victoria and an independent school in the Northern Territory. The information collected by schools will be available to all governments to inform policy and program improvement for students with disability.

HOW WILL THIS DATA BE USED?

In addition to informing funding, the data will inform work at a school and system/sectoral level. It will help to ensure that better support for students who are receiving adjustments because of disability becomes routine in the day-to-day practice of schools through:

- strengthening understanding of schools' legislative obligations and the Disability Standards for Education 2005 in relation to students who are receiving adjustments because of disability
- focusing attention on the individual adjustments required to support students with disability to participate in learning on the same basis as other students, and enabling schools to better reflect on the needs of these students and to support them more effectively
- facilitating a more collaborative and coordinated approach to supporting students who are receiving adjustments because of disability, including through encouraging improvements in documentation at the school level
- strengthening communication between schools, parents/carers and the broader community about the needs of students who are receiving adjustments because of disability.

WHO IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?

The definition of disability for the national data collection is based on the broad definition under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.

For the purposes of the national data collection, students with learning difficulties (such as dyslexia or auditory processing disorder) or chronic health conditions (like epilepsy or diabetes) that require monitoring and the provision of adjustments by the school may be included.

WHO COLLECTS INFORMATION FOR THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?

Teachers and school staff identify the number of students receiving an adjustment due to disability in their school, the broad type of disability and the level of adjustment provided, based on:

- consultation with parents and carers in the course of determining and providing adjustments
- the school team's observations and professional judgements
- any medical or other professional diagnosis
- other relevant information.

School principals are responsible for ensuring the information identified about each student is accurate.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION FOR MY CHILD?

The aim of the national data collection is to collect quality information about Australian school students receiving adjustments due to disability.

This information will help teachers, principals, education authorities and governments to better support students with disability to take part in school on the same basis as other students.

The national data collection provides an opportunity for schools to review their learning and support systems and processes to continually improve education outcomes for students with disability and all students.

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WHAT ARE SCHOOLS REQUIRED TO DO FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY?

All students are entitled to a quality learning experience at school.

Schools are required to make reasonable adjustments, where needed, to assist students with disability to access and participate in education free from discrimination and on the same basis as other students.

These responsibilities are outlined in the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the *Disability Standards for Education 2005* (the Standards). The Standards require educators, students, parents and others (e.g. allied health professionals) to work together to ensure students with disability can participate in education.

WHAT IS A REASONABLE ADJUSTMENT?

A reasonable adjustment is a measure or action taken to help a student with disability access and participate in education on the same basis as other students. Adjustments can be made across the whole school setting (e.g. ramps into school buildings), in the classroom (such as adapting teaching methods) and at an individual student level (e.g. extra tuition for a student with learning difficulties).

Reasonable adjustments reflect the assessed individual needs of the student, and are provided in consultation with the student and/or their parents and carers. For the Disability Standards for Education 2005, an adjustment is reasonable in relation to a student with disability if it balances the interests of all parties affected. Schools are required to make reasonable adjustments for students with disability under the Standards.

WHEN DOES THE COLLECTION TAKE PLACE?

The national data collection is conducted in August each year.

IS THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION COMPULSORY?

Yes. All education ministers agreed to full implementation of the national data collection from 2015. This means that all schools must now collect and submit information annually on the number of students receiving adjustments due to disability in their care, and the level of adjustment they receive.

Information about the arrangements that may apply to your school in relation to this data collection is available from your child's school principal and the relevant education authority.

HOW IS MY CHILD'S PRIVACY PROTECTED?

Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all students and their families is essential and is an explicit focus of the national data collection. Data is collected within each school, and personal details, such as student names or other identifying information, are not provided to local or federal education authorities.

Further information about privacy is available in the [Public information notice](#).

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact your child's school if you have further questions about the NCCD. You can also visit the [NCCD Portal](#).

An [e-learning resource](#) about the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and Disability Standards for Education 2005 is freely available for the use of individuals, families and communities.

The document must be attributed as Parent, guardian and carer fact sheet.

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