



Bendigo Special Developmental School

NDIS funded Therapy Policy

BACKGROUND

Bendigo Special Developmental School currently has 124 students attending the school. Each of these students could potentially be in receipt of funding through the NDIS.

PURPOSE

This policy aims to clarify the school's obligation to allow NDIS funded therapists to operate within the school.

- To ensure that school-based therapy staff support the making of 'reasonable adjustments' to assist students to attain their educational goals.
- The school Principal will articulate reasons for granting or refusing NDIS funded therapy in school during school hours

OBJECTIVE

- To ensure that Bendigo Special Developmental School meets its responsibilities in supporting students with their educational attainment.
- To establish clear guidelines for supporting and information sharing with external therapists.
- To ensure that school-based therapy staff support the making of 'reasonable adjustments' to assist students to attain their educational goals.

SCOPE

The Principal, as the delegate of the Minister, has the right to permit or refuse entry onto Victorian Government School premises. This policy applies to:

- all staff, including casual relief staff, contractors and volunteers
- all external therapists funded through student NDIS packages

POLICY

- Bendigo Special Developmental School will provide copied versions of any information/reports that the school has previously obtained from educational or allied health professionals to parents to assist them in providing supporting evidence for NDIS planning.
- The school will not, however, arrange for or pay for new assessments to be completed for the sole purpose of NDIS funding which does not directly benefit the child and his/her schooling
- Funded therapists will not be permitted to work with students on an individual basis in the school during the school day. Collaboration with school therapists, however, is expected for issues directly relating to overlapping with school therapist roles and responsibilities

- Observations within the class from external therapists may occur on a once per term basis provided that these occur without disruption to the class
- The amount of communication with school therapists may be also limited given the sheer volume of correspondence from external therapists given the number of students
- The Principal does have the discretion to permit NDIS funded therapists to work in the school in particular circumstances where they deem it necessary to maximise outcomes for students. In making such a decision consideration will be given to the relative benefits of an external therapist providing therapy versus the anticipated impact on student learning, disruption to classes, ability to provide supervision, the availability of an appropriate space to work in and timing of such requests.
- Where the Principal approves an NDIS funded therapist to work with students during school hours, they must be satisfied that appropriate checks (Working With Children or Criminal History check and evidence of appropriate qualifications) have been put in place to allow access in a manner that is compatible with the school's Duty of Care and that will not impinge upon the school's ability to adequately discharge this duty. ie provide adequate supervision.
- Following consideration of individual requests from parents for NDIS funded therapists to work in the school the Principal will provide a written response of their decision.
- The school will provide NDIS funded therapists with information as deemed necessary once parental permission is provided and will offer observational visits
- Extended therapists are welcome to be part of a student's Student Support group.

COMMUNICATION PLAN

This policy will be communicated to all families in the school community by the following means

- Being published on our school website
- Being available in hardcopy at the front office
- Being provided in hardcopy to a parent should they wish to have a copy
- Having links to the policy periodically published on our social media communication platforms

REVIEW CYCLE AND EVALUATION

Date implemented	April 2019
Author	Kirshy McAinch
Approved By	
Approval Authority (signature & date)	
Date reviewed	Ongoing cycle
Responsible for Review	Kirshy McAinch
Review date	Ongoing
References	

This policy is written in accordance with the Child Protection Reporting Policy and Education and Training Reform Act, Child Safe Standards, Managing the Risk of Child Abuse in Schools, Ministerial Order No. 870. Bendigo Special Developmental School will work to ensure a safe and secure environment is provided for all students, staff, school community and visitors to the school. We will do this by ensuring the highest standards in care and supervision, having a zero tolerance approach to child abuse and by clear and sound staff practices that place safety at the heart of all decisions."