

Enrolment Policy

Policy Statement

Villanova College gives priority in enrolment to boys who are baptised Catholics, and whose families demonstrate a lived practice of their faith. The College may enrol boys from other faith traditions whose families demonstrate harmony with the expressed values and practices of the school. In such instances Villanova seeks to express the Catholic value of respecting the faith journey of all persons.¹ Villanova's enrolment processes are guided by principles of justice and equity and give expression to Augustinian vision, mission and ethos.

Rationale

The Brisbane Archdiocesan Report on the Bishops' Project on Catholic Schooling 2001 states that the Catholic school of the future will *"provide an authentic experience of Catholic Christian community"* and *"be open to those who support its values"*.² Villanova *"seeks to educate young men as they pursue learning within the context of the Catholic faith in a community comprising parents, staff and students past and present, who strive to be 'of one mind and heart on the way towards God'"*.³

Contemporary issues that impact upon enrolments at Villanova include:

- Level of demand for places at Villanova
- Families' changing church affiliation patterns
- Disability and anti-discrimination legislation
- Access to Villanova for those who are poor and marginalised
- Responses to government education initiatives
- Provision of religious education and faith development opportunities for all students

Villanova responds creatively to these and other issues by offering students a holistic Catholic education in an Augustinian tradition that will assist them to become actively engaged in enriching the world throughout their lifetime.

Consequently Villanova is committed to providing high quality, inclusive education as a visible expression of the Church in action. In partnership with parishes and parents, Villanova is part of the Church's mission in the Archdiocese of Brisbane to educate and support the faith of its members. Through its enrolment policy the College endeavours to contribute towards and further enhance the development of its Catholic identity displaying a distinctly Augustinian charism & spirituality.

Principles

As an educational ministry of the Order that traces its origins back to St Augustine, Villanova's enrolment practices and procedures are guided by the following principles:

1. Applications for enrolment are accepted 2 years prior to the date of proposed commencement
2. Preference is given to boys who are baptised Catholics, and whose families demonstrate a commitment to their faith
3. The Catholic identity of the College recognises and endorses a preferential option for the poor through its enrolment practices
4. Enrolment is contingent upon a satisfactory interview between the parents and a senior member of staff. During the interview particular focus is placed on:

- Where/whether the prospective student and/or his parents are actively involved in their parish/church
 - Importance of faith and religious values in the life of the family
 - Extent to which parents are seeking an Augustinian education for their son, and wish their son to participate in the religious life of the College
 - Motivation of parents in their desire to send their son to Villanova
5. Brothers of boys currently or previously enrolled at Villanova are given preference upon application
 6. Special consideration may be given to:
 - Families who have recently moved to Brisbane from overseas, interstate or other distant places
 - Boys requiring special learning support and assistance, provided the College is able to meet their learning needs {Please see *Enrolment of Students with Special Educational Needs (March 2006)*}
 7. The maximum number of boys from other-than-Catholic families enrolled in any one year does not ordinarily exceed 12% of the total enrolments for that year. This principle is intended to maintain the Catholic Augustinian ethos of the College, and to support the College in meeting its responsibility to Catholic families and the wider Catholic community of the Archdiocese
 8. Once all vacancies for a particular year are filled, prospective students are placed on a waiting list in accordance with the above principles
 9. The College does not offer sporting scholarships, nor is preference afforded to boys because of a particular sporting talent or ability.

Procedure

1. Parents who are willing to support the vision & mission of Villanova College as a Catholic school for boys in the Augustinian tradition are eligible to submit an enrolment application for their son
2. All applicants are notified by ordinary mail of an interview date and time
3. An offer of enrolment is made in writing following interviews with all applicants. Due to the demand for enrolment places, the College may be unable to offer a position to all applicants.
4. Enrolment is ultimately at the discretion of the Principal

Endorsement: Approved by Villanova College Council – 1 December, 2011

Policy Review: 17 June, 2014

Endnotes:

1. The Code of Canon Law, 1984, canon 748 § 2
2. Archdiocese of Brisbane, Queensland bishops' Catholic schools research project 1998-2001, Brisbane, 2001, p6
3. The Rule of St Augustine, Chap 1, Para 2