



# Mount Erin College

## Enrolment Policy - Deaf Education Centre (DEC)

### Background

The Deaf Education Centre (DEC) at Mount Erin College, provides specialised educational support for students who are deaf/hard of hearing. The centre delivers communication and technological support. The College is equipped with Roger and Soundfield systems.

The Mount Erin College Deaf Education Centre is the only government secondary deaf education setting in the Southeast Victorian Region. (SEVR) The DEC accepts students from years 7-12, subject to capacity and prospective students meeting the eligibility criteria.

By law in Victoria all children from the age of 6 up until they turn 17 years must be enrolled at a registered school or registered for home schooling unless they have a reasonable excuse. School participation maximises life opportunities for children and young people by providing them with a comprehensive educational program and access to support networks. It also helps to develop important skills, knowledge and values that set them up for further learning and active participation in their local community.

Specialist schools, including the Mount Erin College Deaf Education Centre have been established to cater for the specific educational needs of students with a disability or with additional needs. Under State and Federal discrimination law, specialist schools are permitted to set specific enrolment criteria and to not enrol students who do not meet these criteria. The DEC has additional accessibility facilities that assist them to implement a model of

education provision and support for a higher proportion of deaf and hard of hearing students among the general student population.

## Scope

Mount Erin College is a designated neighbourhood school with a designated neighbourhood zone (school zone).

This policy applies to:

- i. students seeking enrolment who live within or outside the school zone; and
- ii. students with disability who live outside the zone and seek priority enrolment under the specialist enrolment criteria.

## Enrolment criteria and priority order of placement

School aged students who reside permanently within the school zone are eligible to enrol at Mount Erin College. All students who reside permanently within the school zone are guaranteed a place.

Students may also apply for a place at Mount Erin College if they live outside the school zone. These students may be enrolled if there is sufficient accommodation at the school, or if the request for enrolment aligns with the school's enrolment management implementation plan (if one is in place).

### Specialist enrolment criteria

The following specialist enrolment criteria have been specified and approved by the Regional Director, South East Victoria Region (as the Minister's delegate), under section 2.2.16(b) of the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic).

Students seeking priority enrolment under the specialist enrolment criteria must have:

- i. A bilateral sensorineural loss of 40 decibels average across three frequencies or greater.
- ii. The student requires intervention or assistance to communicate.

Applications from out-of-zone students who are deaf or hard of hearing who do not meet the above criteria may be prioritised on a case-by-case basis by the region, in consultation with the principal, considering the student's education and support needs. Such applications can only be prioritised with approval from the Regional Director, South East Victoria Region (or delegate). For more information, see [Enrolment in specialist schools](#).

### **Priority order of placement**

If there is not sufficient accommodation to accept all applications from students living outside the zone, Mount Erin College will prioritise applications in line with their enrolment management implementation plan (if one is in place). In the absence of an enrolment management implementation plan, Mount Erin College will manage enrolment applications in accordance with the following priority order of placement:

1. students with a sibling at the same permanent address who are attending the school at the same time
2. students who meet the specialist enrolment criteria outlined above
3. all other students in order of closeness of their home to the school.

If there is not sufficient accommodation to accept all applications from students who meet the specialist enrolment criteria (once in-zone and out-of-zone sibling enrolments have been confirmed), these applications will be prioritised in order of closeness of their home to the school.

Mount Erin College may stop prioritising applications from out-of-zone students who meet the specialist enrolment criteria if the total number of enrolled students with disability who require extensive adjustments<sup>1</sup> exceeds 10% of the current student population. This will ensure that Mount Erin College can continue to offer the highest quality education and support for all students, including students with disability. Should this condition come into effect, all applications from students who live outside the zone (including those who meet the specialist enrolment criteria) will be prioritised in line with the department's [Placement Policy](#).

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<sup>1</sup> The 'total number of enrolled students with disability who require extensive adjustments' includes (but is not necessarily limited to) all enrolled students who attract *Program for Students with Disabilities* funding or *Tier 3 Disability Inclusion* funding, regardless of whether those students live in the school zone or meet the specialist enrolment criteria. Mount Erin College, in consultation with the regional office, will determine the total number of enrolled students with disability who require extensive adjustments in Term 3 of each school year.

## **Evidence and supporting information requirements**

To support a student's application for enrolment, the following evidence and supporting information should be provided:

An audiogram with a written statement is required from a qualified audiologist, confirming that the student has sensorineural hearing loss of 40 decibels average across three frequencies or greater.

The Department provides assessment services to support specialist schools in determining whether the student meets their enrolment criteria. Department regional offices also play a role in supporting specialist schools with enrolment processes.

*NOTE: Enrolment applications may not be successful if the requested documentation is not provided or invalid.*

## **Verification of permanent address**

When assessing enrolment applications under the priority order of placement, Mount Erin College may ask for supporting documentation to assist them in verifying a student's permanent residence. For more information, see [Determining permanent residence](#).

## **Enrolment on compassionate grounds**

In exceptional circumstances, the Regional Director South East Victoria Region, may approve a student enrolment at Mount Erin College based on compassionate grounds. This is an overarching consideration and does not form part of Mount Erin College's enrolment criteria or priority order of placement. Further advice and support when considering applications on compassionate grounds is available on the [Policy and Advisory Library](#) and from regional staff.

## **Appeal process**

Parents/carers can appeal against the decision not to approve an enrolment at Mount Erin College. This can occur in relation to enrolments at any age or year level. Further information on appeals can be found at [Appealing enrolment decisions](#).

## Communication

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

## Policy Review and Approval

<b>Policy last reviewed</b>	14 February 2024
<b>Approved by</b>	Principal
<b>Next scheduled review date</b>	Before term 1, 2028

This policy is subject to review by the principal every 3 to 4 years. Proposed updates will be made on an as needs basis, with any proposed changes relating to eligibility criteria and priority order of placement requiring approval from the Minister for Education or the regional director, as the minister's delegate. Contact [school.enrolment.policy@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:school.enrolment.policy@education.vic.gov.au) for support with these changes.